



Studying form: on Royal Ascot's first day toppers are firmly in place, but a breeze forced the women to hang on to their hats. Report, page 2; Racing 31, 32

Power giant cuts jobs

National Power, the larger of the privatised electricity generating companies, said that a further 3,000 jobs would be cut this year, reducing the total workforce to 9,000, just over half the number employed at privatisation. At the same time the company announced pre-tax profits up by £80 million to £514 million in the year to end-March.

Norweb, one of the electricity distribution companies, also reported increased profits, almost doubled from £70 million to £138 million. The electricity regulator has already warned that he may act to limit power industry profits.

Leading article, page 15

Kinnock threat

Neil Kinnock has said that the Labour party might support a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, raising fresh doubts about the government's ability to enact legislation to ratify the pact.

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Leading article, page 15

Maxwell fight

Neil Cooper, from Robson Rhodes, the liquidator of the Maxwell pensions, has warned banks that "the gloves are off" in his fight to retrieve more than £450 million in missing funds.

Page 19
Parliament, page 8

Problem solver

John Major has plans to create a new Whitehall agency with sweeping powers to take over the running of schools and sack incompetent staff.

Page 5

Arms charges

Casper Weinberger, the former American defence secretary, is facing indictment on criminal charges arising out of the Iran-Contra arms scandal, according to his lawyer.

Page 13

Births, marriages, deaths

Births, marriages, deaths, letters, obituaries, Parliament, Sport, Weather.

Arts

Arts, Science, Crossword, Law Report, TV & radio.

Arts

Arts, Science, Crossword, Law Report, TV & radio.

Bush agrees big new arms cuts with Yeltsin

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and President Yeltsin announced an arms control deal yesterday that will drastically reduce each side's strategic nuclear arsenals.

Mr Bush said the two leaders had agreed to eliminate all heavy Russian and American intercontinental ballistic missiles and all other multiple-warhead ballistic missiles. The cuts would be achieved in two phases by 2003 at the latest.

The overall ceiling for each side's nuclear warheads would be cut to between 3,000 and 3,500, half the level of last year's Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Mr Bush said the agreement, reached after the opening sessions of the first official summit between the two leaders, represented "remarkable

steps" and with them "the nuclear nightmare recedes more and more for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren".

The administration had been demanding the elimination of all its land-based, multiple-warhead strategic missiles, the backbone of its nuclear force, without making reciprocal cuts in its own submarine-launched missiles. In a television interview before the summit opened Mr Bush acknowledged that too lopsided an agreement could provoke a military backlash against Mr Yeltsin. However, he argued that since America was now the world's only superpower and it was friends with Russia, nuclear parity was no longer essential.

The first day of the summit was, however, dominated by

Mr Yeltsin's admission that American prisoners from the Vietnam war were transferred to Soviet labour camps and some could still be alive. In an interview with NBC television, Mr Yeltsin said "our archives have shown it is true some of them were transferred to the territory of the former USSR and were kept in labour camps".

A spokesman for the Bush administration said that Mr Yeltsin's statement about POWs was an "astonishing revelation" and added that there had been no previous inkling of such imprisonments. A spokesman for the Vietnamese foreign ministry in Hanoi denied, however, that any such transfers had taken place.

The Russian president also acknowledged on the eve of the summit that a deadly

anthrax epidemic in the Ural mountains in 1979 was caused by germ warfare experiments, as the Americans had claimed, not natural causes as the Soviet authorities had insisted.

Mr Yeltsin was welcomed by Mr Bush as a Peter the Great-style leader of a "great experiment", who was redefining Russia's understanding of itself and its role in the world. "Today marks the beginning of a new era, a new kind of summit, not a meeting between two powers struggling for global supremacy, but between two partners striving to build a democratic peace," Mr Bush said.

The summit is also remarkable for other reasons. Mr Yeltsin is reaching out to America like none of his predecessors ever did and he is doing his utmost to win its trust and spread goodwill. The man once smeared by the White House as given the grandest of South Lawn welcoming ceremonies as Russia's first democratically-elected president.

Declaring that this "Russian revolution, like our American revolution, simply must succeed", Mr Bush demanded that Congress approve the multi-billion dollar aid package for the former Soviet republics that he announced on April 1. The fate of the former Soviet republics were the most important foreign policy issue of the age, he said. The Bush administration has also begun pressing the International Monetary Fund to compromise on the terms of the economic reform plan, which must be agreed before Moscow can receive a \$24 billion (£12.9 billion) Western aid package and World Bank loans.

Reform ally, page 13
Leading article, page 15

Riverside opera planned for millennium

BY DEBRA CRANE

A PROPOSAL to build a new national opera house as part of the South Bank arts centre in London is being considered by the government.

The new theatre, seating approximately 2,000 people and costing upwards of £100 million to build, would be used to house both the Royal Opera, now resident at Covent Garden, and the English National Opera, which recently purchased the Coliseum.

The proposal is said to come from the office of David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, whose department has responsibility for the arts. Mr Mellor, who yesterday declined to comment on the proposal, is believed to want the opera house to be operational by the year 2000 to mark the millennium.

The opera house could be built on the Jubilee Gardens site, adjacent to the Royal Festival Hall on the bank of the Thames. There have been proposals in the past to include a large lyric theatre in the South Bank complex, even going back to the original Festival of Britain plans.

Continued on page 18, col 4

Fans banned from beer tent

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN STOCKHOLM

THE Swedes yesterday barred England supporters from the cheap beer tents which have been a focal point for violence during the European football championship, and deployed hundreds of police to prevent any more hooliganism.

On the eve of Sweden's match against England the Football Association was hoping that the move would end the trouble which has led to 122 arrests in three days and endangered the participation of both the national team and clubs in future European competitions.

The British government and the FA have campaigned against providing these tents for the estimated 4,000 English supporters here, and after

three nights of violence in Malmö and Stockholm the owners finally agreed. Anders Carlberg, the principal organiser, said: "We have been forced to close the doors on the English after the fighting because we cannot differentiate between good and bad Englishmen." In the brawl here early yesterday between Swedish skinheads and the English, seven people were arrested and two men received hospital treatment.

Mr Carlberg said the private security guards would screen the supporters with the police only intervening if there were trouble. The Stockholm officers have denied that they put any pressure on the owners and some would have preferred to have all the

England followers in one place rather than scattered throughout the city.

The behaviour of a small minority of English fans has revived fears that English clubs will be suspended from European competitions. Malcolm George, the assistant chief constable of Manchester, who is advising the Swedish police here, said that England's participation in future tournaments was "hanging by a thread".

John Major yesterday told the Commons that the lawlessness of English soccer hooligans has sullied our reputation abroad.

Fan reminded, page 3
Letters, page 15
Cup preview, page 34

Forget the fascists — what about our crèches?

BY JOE JOSEPH



Sitting-in: a student on guard yesterday

STUDENTS have always guarded the nation's conscience, exerting their prerogative of responsibility without power, fighting for what we believe in but are too busy being capitalists to rage about: fascism. Third World poverty, racism, crèche facilities.

Wait a second, crèche facilities? And what's this here: not enough computers for typing essays? What happened to Vietnam? Where is the spirit of 1968? Does nobody pick coffee beans in Nicaragua any more?

More crèches are a big thing with the students at Oxford Polytechnic. They are among the longest-standing and unfilled demands to the poly's governors that prompted 60 students at the end of their tether to take over one of the campus buildings last Thursday and to occupy it for the past week. About 300 more students gathered at the front

door daily to show support. This is the longest sit-in the poly has seen, twice as long as the three-day occupation held in 1972. That was to protest about Vietnam. Now they want more crèche facilities. And more computer terminals too. And better food.

"Tony Benn pledges his full support," yelled a voice through a loudspeaker poking out of an occupied second floor window. "Tony was supposed to come here to speak today, but he had a dental appointment." Even dentistry now takes precedence over demos.

Inside the occupied Gibbs Building there is the blend of sleeping bags, stained coffee cups and brimming ashtrays that you still find in many newsrooms but which have become less common sights on campuses since student power lost much of its voltage.

Many of the lecturers privately support their students' demands for smaller teaching classes. And access to

libraries and childcare are vital for many. But when did crèches and computers become louder rallying cries than, say, Rio or Yugoslavia? Even quite a few of the 10,000 other students at the poly are angry about the disruption. There are finals going on," says one student. "We all have enough tension without having to run around to find out where our relocated exam rooms are."

In the occupied Gibbs building, Geoffrey Maguire, a law postgraduate student and sit-in ringleader, barked at talk that students might be going soft. "These are hardcore activists you see here. We've demonstrated about the poll tax, about the Gulf War. But this one affects all of us."

Yesterday afternoon the occupying force agreed to vacate the building today after the poly's directors agreed to discuss their demands next week. So was it all a success? "Without a doubt," says Maguire.

Lamont abolishes Neddy forum

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE National Economic Development Council, Britain's only forum for economic discussion between ministers, trade unions and industry, is to be wound up, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said yesterday, after years of Treasury scepticism about its worth.

Norman Lamont told the Commons that the body, set up under Harold Macmillan in 1962 and familiarly known as "Neddy", would go because the era of corporatism in Britain had long passed. Much of its work will be absorbed by government departments, with Michael Heseltine's trade and industry department taking the lead.

The decision was regarded by Tory MPs last night as a compromise between the positions taken by the Treasury, which has long viewed the NEDC as a talking-shop that has outlived its usefulness, and the more interventionist line of Mr Heseltine, president of the board of trade.

Mr Heseltine has argued for years that the holder of his post should chair the NEDC. By last night, it was clear that his department would be taking over the main responsibility for relations between the government and industry. He is expected to spell out plans before the summer, but clearly faces a battle for cash from the Treasury.

Mr Heseltine is to set up sectoral groups within the trade department to take on many of Neddy's responsibilities, but there will be no formal place for the unions.

The decision was condemned by Labour and many trade union leaders. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, accused the government of industrial vandalism. He said that, in a recession, "all this wretched government can do is abolish the only forum which brings together industry, finance and unions to discuss solutions".

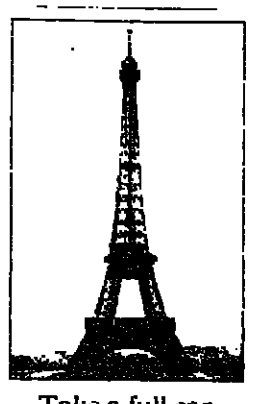
Referring to Mr Heseltine's view about the chairmanship of Neddy, Mr Smith said: "Just as Mr Heseltine was about to claim the seat, the chancellor has whipped the chair away."

Alan Jinkinson, general secretary of the local government union Nalco, said the one forum in which unions, employers and ministers

Continued on page 18, col 5

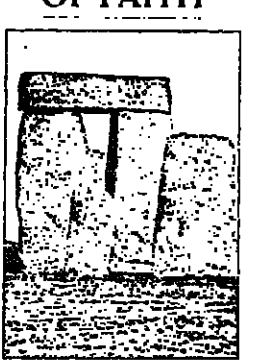
TODAY IN THE TIMES

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A NEW AGE OF FAITH



Travellers at a Stonehenge dawn are but the shabby tip of the iceberg of a growing faith **Page 14**

A CENTURY OF SEX



Cate Haste's history of sex offers a different insight on the Swinging Sixties **Life & Times** Page 5

Paul Mellon — fabulously wealthy famously private — tells his story

PAUL MELLON with John Baskett

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Scientists delve into deep secret of Loch Ness

If Nessie exists, she is bound to be disturbed by the latest intrusion into her domain, Kerry Gill reports

SCIENTISTS who are to begin mapping the depths of Loch Ness next month will inevitably drag up a question which seems certain to remain unanswered long after they have packed up and gone home: is there, or is there not, a Jurassic beastie lurking in the stretch of inland water with the greatest mean depth in Britain?

Project Urquhart, named after a castle on the northwest bank of the loch, is of worthy scientific interest and ostensibly not concerned with monsters. Behind it is a consortium including the Natural History Museum and the Freshwater Biological Association. It has the backing of the National Museums of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Society for Underwater Technology.

Professor Gwynfryn Jones, director of the FBA, and the project's scientific director, said: "The exploration of Loch Ness is potentially one of the most exciting such studies to be undertaken in



Wishful sighting: a 1930s postcard places Nessie in the lee of Urquhart Castle, namesake of the latest scientific foray into the loch

Britain in recent years." The scientists notably made no reference to the monster. However, Professor Colin Curds, keeper of zoology at the Natural History Museum, said hopefully: "It is

highly likely that species new to science will be discovered in Loch Ness."

The exact depth of Loch Ness has always been unclear. The Guinness Book of Records says that the loch has

the greatest mean depth in Britain, 427ft, but maps are based on soundings taken in 1903 by Sir John Murray, which recorded a maximum of 754ft. More than 20 years ago the Pices submersible

was reported to have descended to 820ft and to have obtained a sounding of 975ft. The MV Simrad, a 150-ton vessel equipped with the most modern sonar equipment, will arrive at Loch Ness on

July 5. Its techniques will contrast with the 1903 expedition, which relied on nothing more advanced than a rowing boat and a lead weight attached to a piano wire.

Power companies' profits condemned

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's privatisation of the electricity supply industry came in for fresh criticism last night as Labour and Liberal Democrats denounced the massive profits from two power companies as an insult and immoral.

National Power's announcement of an 18 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £514 million was singled out by the opposition parties, as it coincided with the cutting of a further 2,400 jobs by the company. National Power had already cut more than 3,000 jobs in the year up to March 31, trimming the workforce to 11,400.

Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, said: "The whole thing has become a racket. National Power's record profits come on top of record profits scooped up by PowerGen and the National Grid Company. Today's figures show the profits have trebled over the last five years while inflation has gone up by only one-third. All this makes a mockery of government claims that this privatised industry is properly regulated."

He also criticised the profits made by Norweb of £137.9 million before tax in 1991-2.

Profits in 1990-1 were £70.3 million.

Mr Dobson said: "It beggars belief that Norweb's profits have effectively doubled. This electricity monopoly has been coining it while the rest of the North-West has suffered. Over the period they grabbed these unbelievable and unacceptable and record profits, 45,000 people in the North-West lost their jobs, 3,700 companies that were not monopolies went broke, and 7,300 families faced repossession orders on their homes."

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, described the profits of the two companies as "immoral", as they coincided with the loss of thousands of jobs. He also criticised the industry's regulator, Stephen Littlechild, for not going far enough in ordering prices to be cut.

Eddie Newall, national energy officer of the GMB general union, said: "The story of privatisation so far is one of thousands of job losses and prices soaring through the roof. Out of all this has come nothing for the consumer."

National Power rejected the criticisms, saying the

company had spent £500 million on capital investment last year with £300 million of the money spent on improving the environment. The chairman of Norweb, Ken Harvey, said his company's results showed high-quality customer service and profits "can and must go hand in hand".

PowerGen recently announced a 32 per cent rise in profits and yesterday Nottingham-based East Midlands Electricity was first in a queue of 14 privatised regional distribution companies in England and Wales to announce profit figures. Pre-tax, they rose 41 per cent to £150 million from £106.5 million in the year to March 31.

The National Consumer Council said last night that new price controls on the power industry were urgently needed. "Consumers will expect swift action. They will not want to wait years for a better deal," Robin Simpson, the council's head of policy, said. "The whole formula governing electricity prices to domestic customers urgently needs revision. There is something very wrong with it."

Leading article, page 15

Racegoers cheer princess at Ascot

BY JOHN YOUNG

A LOUD cheer from racegoers in the Royal Enclosure greeted the Princess of Wales when she arrived yesterday for the first day of Royal Ascot. High society was clearly happy to be given the chance to express its support and affection for the princess, who seemed relaxed and delighted by the warmth of her reception.

The royal party drove down the course with the princess accompanied by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the second carriage, preceded by the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Kent.

The annual gathering of the well-heeled and well-bred was at its garden party best, with plenty of sunshine and a breeze to temper the humidity. There were lots of pretty frocks and a few frumpy ones, and among the men signs that grey morning coats might be giving way to the black species.

There were reminders, however, that recession is still with us. The crowds and traffic were thinner and there was less ostentatious eating, drinking and popping of champagne corks. Even the hats and dresses were more sober.

The Queen visited the parade ring before the day's big race, the St James's Palace Stakes. Disappointingly, the expected showdown between Rodrigo de Triano, winner of the English and Irish 2,000 Guineas, and the highly fancied French colt Azadi, never happened. They came in fourth and fifth behind the Irish challenger Brief Truce.

Photograph, page 1

IRA uses Ulster tactic in London

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO Irishmen who hijacked a minicab and blew it up close to Piccadilly Circus told their driver they were members of the IRA and ordered him at gunpoint to follow orders. Minutes later they stole the car keys, leaving the driver to get clear and try to raise the alarm before the blast.

As detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch interviewed the driver, who has not been named, yesterday, other officers sifted through the debris of the blast in St Alban's Street, which runs between the Haymarket and Lower Regent Street. The bronze Mercedes car was ripped apart and the roof was blown into the air.

The bomb, weighing two to three pounds, is the third in central London in the past ten days. Police said there was no doubt it was the work of the IRA.

The explosion is one of the most daring attacks by an active service unit because the bombers took the risk of being seen. It borrows from the tactic of proxy bombing widely used in Northern Ireland. The bombers do not seem to have had a specific target but once again varied their tactics.

The problem for police is whether the bombers will content themselves with a small explosion, perhaps designed to show they are still

active or whether the bombing was a practice for something larger.

The bombers, both in their 20s and wearing dark coloured baseball caps and dark glasses, walked into a minicab office in the Holloway Road, Islington, on Monday at about 10.30pm and asked for a car to take them to the West End.

According to police, the two men were being driven along Shaftesbury Avenue half an hour later when one of them, sitting next to the driver, produced a handgun and told the man they were members of the IRA. He was told he would not get hurt if he did as he was told.

The car was driven around Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square and St James's. The driver was ordered to stop at one point and one of the men fumbled with two rucksacks. It is likely he was setting a short timer running on the device.

The car started again and then stopped in St Alban's Street. The two men took the car keys, left the rucksacks in the footwell of the front passenger seat and ran off after telling the driver a bomb would explode in 15 minutes. The driver found two police officers in the Haymarket and the bomb exploded as they were hurrying back to the car.



London attack: the remains of the wrecked minicab after the blast in the West End

Joyce has the last word: Yes

AT DAVY Byrne's pub off Grafton Street in the heart of Dublin the debate was in full swing. Which way would James Joyce have voted on the Maastricht treaty?

Yesterday was Bloomsday, the annual celebration of Leopold Bloom's journey through Dublin in *Ulysses*. It was in Davy Byrne's pub that Bloom, repelled by the sight of diners slurping and masticating at the nearby Burton, stopped for his cheese sandwich and a glass of wine on June 16, 1904.

Most of the Joyceans, paying a little more for their lunch than the 7d it cost Bloom, seemed convinced their hero would have had no hesitation in voting yes in tomorrow's referendum. After all, Joyce was a man who chose to spend almost his entire adult life in European capitals in exile, albeit reluctantly, from a country that he found stiflingly insular and conservative.

Larry Nugent, a smart Dublin shipping executive who has enjoyed the Bloomsday literary pub crawl for more than 20 years, argued that Joyce saw the Ireland of his day as a "village pump" society, in thrall to the Roman Catholic Church, which could only benefit

reigny involved in Maastricht," he said. "I think he would have felt that holding onto control within the country would help to reinforce the Irish character." According to Ms Balfie, Joyce only went away so that he could observe Dublin all the better.

Bruce Arnold, the leading Joyce expert and literary editor of the *Irish Independent*, delivered a paper to a similar effect yesterday morning. People were forgetting, he said, one of the main ingredients of Joyce's character: his rebelliousness. It was precisely because he would have been told to vote yes by those in authority that he would have done the opposite. "He was a rebel against all convention, all authority and all conformity. He would have undoubtedly voted no."

The yes campaign, however, may have a literary trick up its sleeve. Is the end of the last sentence of *Ulysses* really just Molly Bloom fantasising about Leopold and men in general or something else entirely? "...I put my arms around him yes," she muses, "and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes."

In her view, Joyce was a reluctant European. "I don't think he would have liked the dilution of our essential sov-

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal court plugs computer loophole

An employee who tampers directly with a company computer for gain or malice is breaking the law and can be charged under the new computer crime laws, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. The judges, headed by Lord Justice Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, overturned a ruling which had thrown into doubt a key section of recent legislation aimed at cracking down on computer crime.

Judge Aglonby, sitting at Snaresbrook Crown Court last July, acquitted a man who had been charged under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. The accused, a warehouseman, had allegedly tampered with a company computer to give himself a discount on the purchase of a key-cutting machine.

He had been charged under section 2 of the Act, which covers unauthorised access with intent to commit false accounting. The defence argued successfully that section 1(a) of the Act meant two computers were needed to commit the crime of hacking.

Lord Taylor said yesterday that in overturning this ruling the appeal judges were plugging what might have been a "surprising and unlikely" gap in the legislation. He said if the lower court's ruling had been allowed to stand, unauthorised access to confidential and security material held on computer could be made with impunity by anyone with direct access to an "in-house" computer.

MPs lobby Germans over fighter aircraft

A delayed production plan for the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) has been drawn up to try to keep Germany in the formation project. Details of the scheme were explained to Bundestag members in Bonn yesterday by an all-party group of British MPs who came to lobby hard in favour of the aircraft. Keith Mans, Conservative MP for Wyre, said that deliveries to Germany could be postponed until the end of the century to keep down costs.

Signs are emerging that the German government is looking for ways of staying in the project even though Volker Rühle, the defence minister, has recommended cancelling it on the grounds that the aircraft is too expensive and inappropriate for the post Cold War era. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence minister, has been trying to persuade Herr Rühle to change his mind. Next Tuesday Bundestag members are to decide whether Germany will buy the EFA.

Sellafield rally banned

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd yesterday won a High Court injunction banning Greenpeace from holding a mass demonstration, which had been expected to attract the leading rock band U2 and 15,000 people, outside its Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria next weekend. Mr Justice May said that BNFL, whose court action was supported by tenants of land adjoining the site, was entitled to withdraw its permission for the event, which had been granted last February on the basis that several hundred people only would attend. If the rally was not stopped, trespass and obstruction of the highway were very likely to occur, the judge said. The demonstration was to be held in protest at the scheduled opening of a second reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

Car price cut ruled out

Motor manufacturers told Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, that they would refuse to cut the price of their cars in spite of the threat of a new enquiry into allegations of overcharging British consumers. The heads of Britain's four biggest car companies - Rover, Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot Talbot - told Mr Heseltine that they could not afford to cut prices. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that the industry was not guilty of accusations of profiteering. However, an enquiry for Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner, decided that prices could be as much as 40 per cent higher in Britain than in the cheapest European Community nation. As a result, Mr Heseltine was ready to ask the Office of Fair Trading to reopen the investigation into pricing policies but the manufacturers oppose such a move.

Queen backs college

The Queen has sent Paul McCartney a personal cheque to help his plans to found a "Fame" school for the performing arts in Liverpool. The cheque, for an undisclosed sum, turned up in the former Beatle's post without warning, accompanied by a letter in which the Queen commended his efforts. She told Mr McCartney that his scheme for his old grammar school, the Liverpool Institute, was a "most worthy objective" and wished him "every possible success in your great endeavours". The singer-songwriter said yesterday: "This is terrific news. It is a fabulous boost for the school - and for Liverpool." Mr McCartney is seeking £13 million to establish an international college for 2,500 full-time and part-time students, which is due to open in 1995. He has made a donation believed to exceed £1 million.

Falklands post

David Tatham, the ambassador to Lebanon since 1990, has been appointed as the next governor of the Falkland Islands. Before being appointed ambassador he was head of the Foreign Office's Falkland Islands department. He will take over in August.

CORRECTION

"No man has a right to fix the boundary of the march of a nation" was said by Charles Stewart Parnell and not Daniel O'Connell, as stated in Life and Times. ("Yes or no to the Irish question?" June 15th). Kilkeny is the site of the stronghold of the Earls of Ormonde, not Osmonde.

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- 3 or 4 nights accommodation in a twin or double room with private bathroom, colour TV and tea/coffee making facilities
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Major outlines scheme to take over problem schools

By Nicholas Wood and Matthew d'Ancona

A NEW Whitehall agency with sweeping powers to take over the running of schools and sack incompetent staff is being planned by ministers. The move, which will be detailed in a white paper to be published later in the summer, was foreshadowed in a speech by the prime minister last night in which he said that the government was determined to intervene where standards were unacceptably low. "If the governors or the local authority are unwilling or unable to put things right, then we must find ways to raise standards for the children in them," Mr Major said. The schools inspectorate, whose independence from the educational establishment was strengthened before the election, would be in the van-

guard of the changes, identifying the schools in need of a managerial overhaul. In his speech in London to the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think-tank, Mr Major gave few details of his proposal, beyond promising that it would be "radical and controversial". He said that he wanted to see good schools grow and bad schools improve or close. Teaching unions provided a foretaste yesterday of the opposition that the proposals will encounter. Responding to disclosures in *The Times* yesterday, the two biggest unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, condemned the interventionist thrust.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, said that Mr Major was planning a centralising move that would create unease. "Whitehall cannot know and understand the problems of the locality which the school serves, nor be sufficiently sensitive to those influences," he said. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NAS/UNT, said that the difficulties of inner-city schools could not be solved by a change of management. *The Times* understands that Mr Major and John Patten, the education secretary, intend to create a new educational body with powers to take over the running of the worst schools. These are thought to be mainly in inner city areas controlled by Labour councils.

The Inspectorate's job will be to pinpoint schools where academic and behavioural standards fall well below the norm. They will be helped by the extra information provided by the parent's charter on examination results and truancy. Responsibility for taking over the schools and possibly preparing them for self-governing status would then be handed to the unnamed agency. It would be given powers to replace heads, deputies and other teachers. Head teachers balked yesterday at the idea of "academic receivers" being sent into schools which performed badly in examination league tables. "I'd be very reluctant to support any move to put people into schools for reasons of this sort," David Burbidge, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said. Details of the scheme have yet to be decided but the broad outlines are clear. The Conservatives set up a variety of quangos, such as urban development corporations, in the 1980s to deal with problems judged to be beyond local authorities. Ministers intend to extend this approach into education. Plans to give the proposed new agency powers to take over the running of all the schools in a local authority have been dropped, it is understood.



Cosmetic measure: Doug McAvoy, who says exclusions are used to make schools attractive

Number of pupils sent home rises

By Our Education Reporter

THE number of pupils expelled or suspended from schools in England and Wales rose by 20 per cent last year, according to a report published today.

The survey, conducted by the National Union of Teachers in 26 education authorities, showed that more than 5,300 children were excluded, suggesting a national total of about 25,000. The increase suggests that classroom discipline is degenerating and increasing competition between schools is encouraging the exclusion of difficult pupils.

Twenty-seven per cent of authorities cited lack of resources as the reason for the increase, while the same proportion mentioned the impending introduction of league tables comparing schools' academic performance. Eighteen per cent said that a decline in parental discipline was to blame.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, said it was increasingly difficult for schools to respond to the needs of children with behavioural difficulties. "With increased class sizes, teachers have less time to deal with the needs of individual pupils. Inadequate financing limits the ability of schools to make alternative provision," he said. He said exclusions were a cosmetic way of making schools more attractive to parents. The union has written to John Patten, the education secretary, calling for independent research into the increase. The education department said that data on permanent exclusions was being collected from local authorities and may be published if found to be reliable. School libraries need an immediate cash injection of £100 million to bring their stocks up to a reasonable standard, according to a report published today by the Library Association. In a memorandum to the National Commission on Education, the association claims that the delegation of budgets to schools and local authority cuts have placed school library services in serious jeopardy, and that an additional £30 million a year is needed to ensure that secondary schools can buy one new book per pupil every year.

Tories show new will to intervene

A new determination to interfere directly with the running of problem schools could expose the government to charges of centralism, Matthew d'Ancona reports

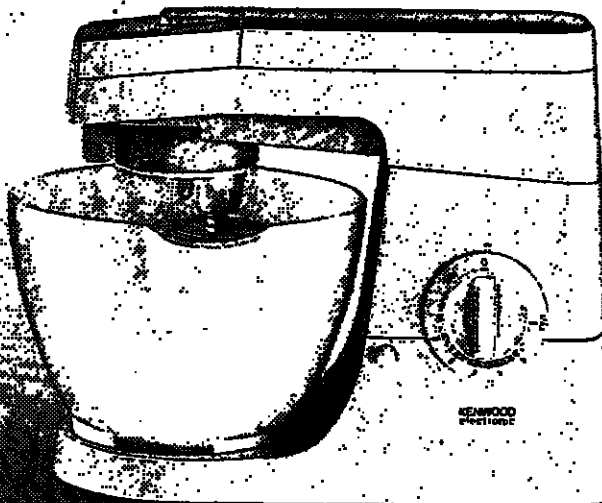
THE inner-city school has long been a troublesome nettle awaiting the firm grasp of Tory educational policy. Ministers have put forward a string of schemes to raise standards and promote choice in deprived areas, always disputing that social circumstance is an excuse for poor performance. The education department invited local authorities last July to submit radical plans for rejuvenation, offering to meet 60 per cent of the costs. In January, £2 million was poured into a reading recovery programme for inner-city schools, and last month Michael Fallon, former education minister, said that such schools should be forced to opt out of local authority control.

Angela Rumbold, deputy chairman of the Conservative party, dismissed this suggestion as impractical, but the prime minister's speech yesterday indicates a new willingness to intervene, which will give unforeseen bite to the forthcoming education white paper. His determination will require a revolution in educational practice as well as a strong political will. The introduction of teams of trouble-shooting officials roving the country's schools will be a radical extension of Whitehall powers, and will fuel claims that the government is gradually centralising the education service. For most schools, contact with central government is limited to the occasional visits of inspectors and architects.

Teaching unions yesterday voiced strong opposition. A new agency will oversee this highly sensitive work, in tandem with the revamped schools inspectorate. Ministers have high hopes of Professor Stewart Sutherland, the new chief inspector of schools, who is regarded as an uncorrupted figure capable of taking on the educational establishment. The agency is expected to assume the local authority's role in schools singled out for reform by inspectors; supervise changes to staff and governing body; and prepare the ground for opt-outs.

The education secretary is empowered by the 1944 Education Act to issue directions to governors, but does so only in the most exceptional circumstances. At opt-out schools, two governors may be appointed by ministers, although this power has been used only once, at Stratford in east London. The prime minister's proposals would require a much bolder use and probable extension of these powers. Legislation would also be needed to enable a new schools agency to remove ineffective heads and deputies, who are at present accountable only to their employers: local authorities, or, in the grant-maintained sector, governing bodies. Councils employ peripatetic heads to take over problem schools temporarily, a strategic role which might now be absorbed by the education department.

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Soccer player sent for trial

GARY BIRCH, 27, a youth footballer with Brentford, was charged with assault on a police officer after a row in a car park. He is due to appear at court on Monday.

Jury stays out

A jury was told to return a verdict on the charge of manslaughter in the case of a man who died after a fall from a building. The trial is continuing.

Asbestos firm

A firm which has been accused of covering up the extent of asbestos contamination in a school has been ordered to pay compensation.

Scientists strike

Scientists in the US have called for a boycott of products from a company they accuse of unethical practices. The boycott is part of a larger campaign.

Student is accused of funds theft

THE former treasurer of Oxford Polytechnic's student union fled to France after transferring £40,000 of union money into a fictitious bank. Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday.

David Bright, for the prosecution, said that Paul Crossland, 25, of Canterbury, Kent, had written to a friend from Marseille: "I decided to make a fresh start to my life. Sorry to leave you, my Ox Poly student union and England. Yours in peace." Mr Crossland denied two charges of theft and forgery involving union funds. He was one of four signatories on student union cheques and volunteered in the summer of 1989 to write and sign cheques for small refunds due to fellow students.

He made one out for £5 to a Paul Cassidy and was not seen again until police apprehended him at Lancaster University in October last year. Mr Bright said: "He knew his term of office was about to end with access to cheques and he knew two fellow signatories who might have spotted what was going on were at a conference." The trial continues.

Poly sit-in, page 1

Yo-yo may start new space era

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

A NASA astronaut is to play with a yo-yo from a San Francisco hobby shop to give NASA scientists invaluable information about how a new kind of satellite might behave in space.

The Italian-built satellite, designed to be tethered to the shuttle Atlantis by a 12-mile cable, could usher in a new era of space exploration. If the system works as planned, it could be lowered into the relatively unexplored region of space 80 or so miles above the earth, which is too high for aircraft and too low for satellites. The tether will generate electricity as it moves through the Earth's magnetic field.

Tethered satellites could be used to raise or lower spacecraft orbits or even to generate artificial gravity by attaching two spacecraft together and whirling them like a set of bolas. Downward deployment could allow "wind-tunnel" tests in the upper atmosphere, while passing currents through the tether might generate thrust.

But while some aspects of the behaviour of such a system can be predicted mathematically, some uncertainties remain. That is where astronaut Jeff Hoffman and his yo-yo come in.

He will try to reproduce some of the anticipated manoeuvres before the half-ton satellite, 5ft in diameter, is reeled out on the end of a cable no thicker than a matchstick to hover 12 miles above the shuttle as it orbits Earth in the second half of next month.



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JUNE 1992

Sleek new trains will take commuters into the 21st century

New coaches for old. The rail passenger's dream is about to come true, reports Michael Dynes

COMMUTERS on one of Britain's worst rail routes are to be given a new fleet of efficient and comfortable trains to take them into the 21st century. The high-tech Networker trains will be introduced in a new-for-old swap with 1950s "slam-door" trains on lines between London and Kent in August.

The suburban trains are part of a £700 million modernisation. They will replace the old trains that have become a symbol of Britain's failure to invest sufficiently in the rail network — at least in the eyes of the 140,000 commuters who use them to travel into London every day.

The first of 680 new coaches will come into service on Network SouthEast's Kent Link between London, Sevenoaks and Gillingham, provided that trials are successful.

Geoff Harrison-Mee, the South Eastern division director, says that the new trains



Departure and arrival: the much-loathed "slam-door" commuter train, left, and its comfortable, high-tech replacement, the Kent Link Networker, right

will do for the railways what 747s did for the airlines, providing long-suffering passengers with much improved standards.

The driver-only trains will have air conditioning, sliding doors, dot matrix information displays, and ergonomically designed interiors.

Networkers will also be the first trains in Britain equipped with regenerative braking, which effectively turns the traction motors into generators when the brakes are applied, thereby reducing electricity costs.

The modernisation programme includes £45 million

for extending platforms so that train lengths can be increased from 10 to 12 coaches.

Platforms at 68 stations have been lengthened and work on the platforms at London Bridge will begin next summer to complete the process. Train capacity will increase from 1,000 to 1,400

passengers for a full length train.

Rail planners are confident that increased capacity will lead to a noticeable reduction in overcrowding during the morning and evening rush hours. But with 140,000 commuters trying to get into central London every day,

making the South Eastern division the busiest stretch of railway in Europe, standing in over-crowded trains is unlikely to be eliminated.

The South Eastern division, which makes one of the largest contributions to Network SouthEast's finances, has been hit badly by the

decline in demand caused by the recession, and is likely to see its income fall by about £12 million this year from last year. Declining demand for rail travel has been most noticeable in northern Kent, where office workers live, rather than southern Kent, where the executives live.

As the new Networker coaches are introduced at the rate of two a week for the next two years, the present slam-door rolling stock will be withdrawn from service and scrapped.

Most of the 700 or so 1950s coaches will be destroyed, although a few are likely to be salvaged by preservation societies. Like most of the commuters who have to use them, however, Mr Harrison-Mee will be glad to see the back of them.

The introduction of the Kent Link Networkers is likely to highlight the plight of commuters on Kent Coast services, where the trains, built in the 1960s, are approaching the end of their useful lives.

Network SouthEast had hoped to order another fleet of Networkers for the Kent Coast routes, ready to come into service from 1994. But government funding failed to materialise, and the trains are now unlikely to arrive before 1996-7.

Commuter services in Kent are already the most congested routes in the Network SouthEast region, with 42 per cent of trains entering the capital in peak periods, breaching British Rail's limits on overcrowding.

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Judging from public response, it seems a lot of you agree. So much so, we're now introducing a 1kg tub to sit beside our double pack.

Now you can really start putting the knife in.

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MPs lobby Clarke over extradition

By RAY CLANCY

LAWYERS acting for Lorain Osman, Britain's longest-serving remand prisoner, yesterday began new proceedings aimed at preventing his transfer to Hong Kong to face fraud charges.

They are also challenging the decision by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to sign an extradition warrant on Monday. They believe it was hasty and are backed by MPs who planned to discuss the case with Mr Clarke yesterday but were told the meeting was cancelled.

Application papers requesting a writ of habeas corpus, the eighth in the five years that Mr Osman, 60, has been held in custody, were lodged in the High Court with the case expected to be heard on Monday before Lord Justice Woolf. Last week the House of Lords refused to hear a final appeal on the seventh application.

More than 100 MPs have signed an all-party Commons motion supporting Mr Osman, who says he will not get a fair trial in Hong Kong. Last night several MPs called for Mr Clarke to reconsider.



Osman: supported by more than 100 MPs

Genetic wheat created

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A GENETICALLY engineered wheat plant resistant to a common herbicide has been produced at the University of Florida, opening the way for a new era of plant breeding for the Western world's most important cereal crop.

Biotechnology, the journal in which the results are published, says that it is the first time that a transgenic wheat plant has been produced.

Farmers will be able to use the herbicide Basta to kill weeds while leaving the wheat unscathed. Indra Vasil, of the university's Laboratory of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology, believes that bigger advantages will come from the introduction of other genes, including those for disease resistance.

Dr Vasil's team introduced the genes conferring resistance to the herbicide by a method called microprojectile bombardment. The genes were coated onto tiny spheres of gold or tungsten as fine as talcum powder and blasted into the wheat cells by gunpowder. When plants were grown from these transformed cells they proved resistant to the herbicide, and the same was true of their progeny.

Dr Vasil said that all the major cereal grains could now be genetically modified. Wheat had proved harder than either rice or maize because it was difficult to maintain the wheat cells for sufficiently long in cell culture. This problem had been overcome by the discovery of a unique type of culture enabling the cells to be manipulated successfully and fully functional plants recovered.

Village pub fights for special status

A SUFFOLK landlord is considering an appeal against a council decision that his pub is not an essential part of his village community and does not qualify for a rate rebate.

Mid-Suffolk District Council was one of the first authorities to offer rate rebates to village stores where their closure might adversely affect the community. But when Mr Clarke, 56, who runs the Shoulder of Mutton in Old Newton, near Stowmarket, used a similar argument to request a rebate on his £2,000 business rate, he was refused.

"It means it is going to be very difficult for me to make ends meet," he said. "I expect my pub will eventually have to close down." His expected appeal will be supported by his local Licensed Victuallers' Association.

Geoffrey Kistner, chief finance officer for Mid-Suffolk, said that the council had written to 35 village shopkeepers advising that they could claim business rate relief. Ten had been given full relief.

He said that a pub could qualify for a rebate, but there were no plans to extend the scheme beyond

Rural landlords fear closing time is near after a test case on rate rebates, writes Andrew Lycett

shops. "Some pubs might have a strong community benefit. Others might not." Margaret Benson, who has applied for rate relief on the Old Newton Post Office Stores that she runs with her husband, said: "Once a village loses any essential facility like the pub, the whole place dies."

Steve Cox, of the Campaign for Real Ale, said that the decision would contribute to the further decline of village pubs, which he said were "much more than an economic unit for selling beer. It is a focus for social life in the community."

A recent survey by Suffolk Acre (Action on Rural England) found that, from 1978 to 1988, the number of rural pubs in Suffolk had declined from 367 to 321. It estimates there has been a further 15 per cent fall since 1988, largely since the introduction of the unified business rate in 1990.

Nurses pay back by race

Batsman drove car at umpire

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Man sought

Ancient find

Church charge

Doctors call for help in coping with job stresses

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HORRIFIC events witnessed by doctors may cast a long shadow over their professional lives, lingering in their minds and affecting their capacity to care for their patients. But there is no counselling or support available because doctors are expected to cope, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Many companies now recognise the need to help employees overcome traumatic experiences but the National Health Service has lagged behind. Bus conductors who are attacked by rowdy passengers get immediate counselling and time off work to recover, but the needs of doctors assaulted by patients are neglected, the association says.

Launching a report on stress and the medical profession, Fleur Fisher, head of the BMA's professional and scientific division, said it was "vital" that the health service set up an occupational health service with a "doctor's doctor" in each hospital. "Over-stressed doctors are arguably less able to make competent decisions. If they are looked after they will be better able to provide the best possible service to patients," she said.

The report says that nearly one in ten GPs may be an alcoholic and that doctors are 72 per cent more likely to commit suicide than the general population, although the

studies it cites are up to 20 years old. Jack Howell, chairman of the association's board of science and education, said doctors still suffered higher rates of marital breakdown, alcoholism and suicide.

"Doctors are not the only people to suffer stress but they are in a double bind because they have to deal with the stress inherent in their own work as well as soaking up the stress of their patients. That is what our work is all about," he said.

One survey showed that five years after qualifying 40 per cent of doctors said that they wished they had not taken up medicine because of the pressure of the job.

Ruth Gilbert, a junior doctor and chief author of the report, said that junior doctors in the front line often had to make immediate life and death decisions for which they felt inadequately prepared. "They often feel isolated and find it very difficult to ask for help or admit they can't cope with what they are being asked to do," she said.

"The culture demands that you grit your teeth and bear it," Eric Rose, a GP in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, with a special interest in stress, said doctors often felt guilty when a patient died unexpectedly, turning over in their minds what they might have

done differently. He said that his worst experience was when he returned from holiday one year to discover that a patient had died that morning of a condition which, in retrospect, he realised he had missed. "You don't get it right all the time, no matter how good you are," he said.

The report calls for more consultants and shorter working hours to ease the pressure on hospital doctors and more encouragement for them to seek help. It says that GPs who book in more than eight patients an hour suffer twice the stress of those who are more generous with the time they give their patients and says training in time management may help.

The recent changes in the health service and the greater readiness of patients to complain and to sue, have added to the stresses on doctors. "Quite a lot are in one or other of the stages of burn-out," Dr Rose said.



In the front line: Ruth Gilbert, who says that many fellow junior doctors often feel unprepared for the critical decisions they have to make

GP courses seek overseas students

By ALISON ROBERTS

A SHORTAGE of medical students wanting to train for general practice is forcing some GP course organisers to advertise in Europe. Course organisers say that new GP contracts are causing students to think twice before signing up for training.

Philip Evans, secretary of the International Committee of the Royal College of GPs, said that the number of British graduates at the end of the year is "taking places on three-year vocational placements, with no years in district general hospitals and one year with a general practice, had dropped but a surplus of European medical students who could not get onto courses at home were keen to be trained here."

The number of UK trainees dropped by 336 between 1990 and 1991. Dr Evans said: "Because there is a risk that vocational training courses could fold if they don't have people to fill the jobs, it is understandable that some course organisers advertise in EC countries for training here."

Poor morale in the profession following the imposition of the new contract in 1990 was leading some to enter non-medical careers while

others preferred to stay in hospitals, he said.

Edward Josse, North East Thames regional adviser in general practice, said that filling course places had been difficult this year. If courses were undersubscribed there would be a shortage of suitably qualified GPs later. "There will be a blip in the numbers of those ready to take on general practice work," he said.

General practitioners have had freedom of movement between EC countries since 1975, and about 8,000 European doctors have taken up places in other countries since then, with the greatest number coming to the UK from Italy, Germany, and Holland, and a large number from Greece.

A 1990 EC directive said that European doctors should have two years' training before entering general practice in another country. However, it does not have to be completed until 1995. British GPs must have three years' training before practising.

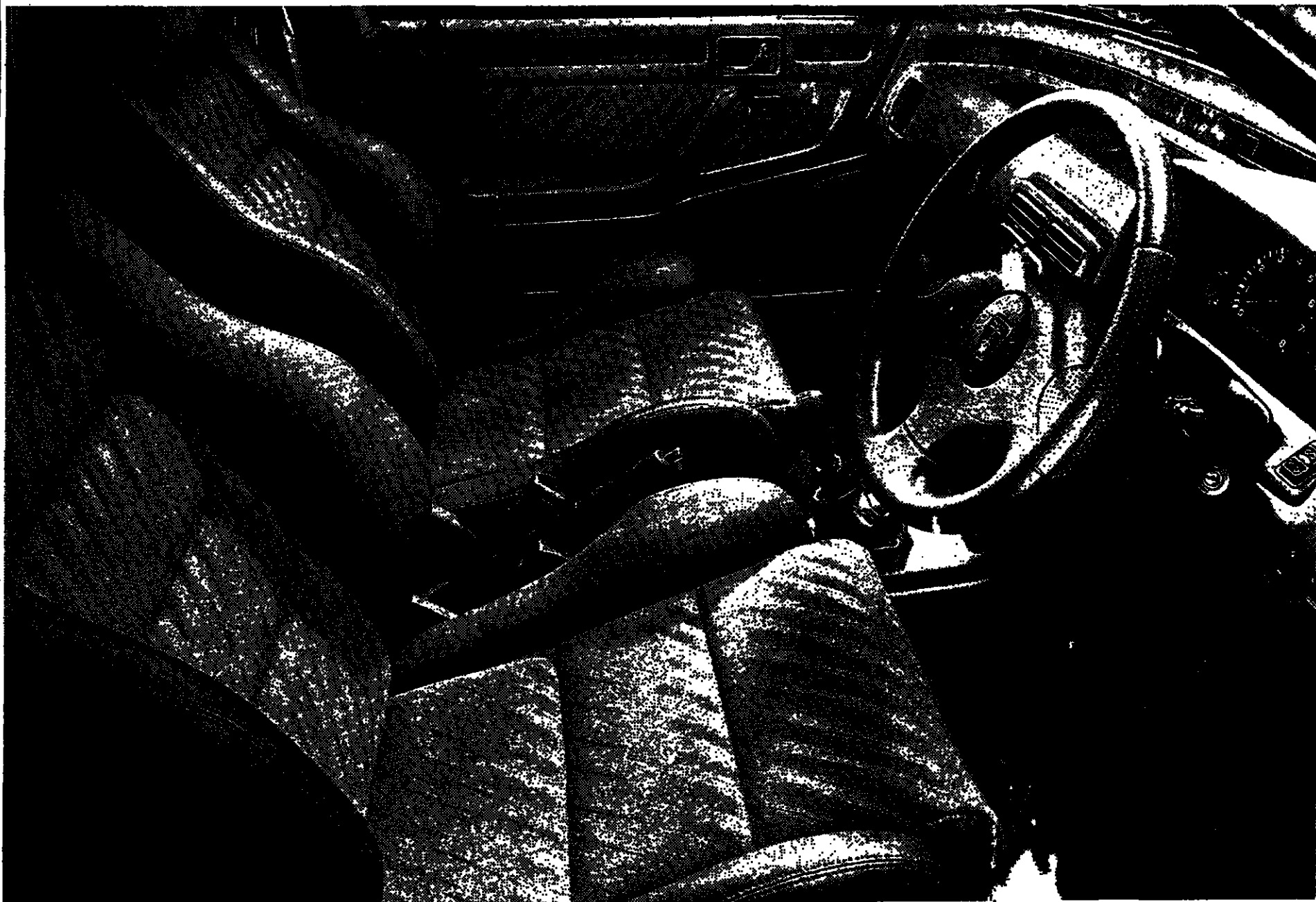
Dr Evans said that European students were taking advantage of the high standard of British training. Most of them returned home.

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MF1

Nurses pay 'held back by race bias'

By OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS and nurses from ethnic minorities are suffering unfair discrimination over jobs and pay, according to the Commission for Racial Equality.

Nurses from ethnic minorities have had their pay unfairly held down in the nurses pay regrading exercise, the commission says in a report published today. At least 20 nurses have registered complaints with industrial tribunals but many have had their pay upgraded immediately before the hearing could take place, without explanation.

The commission is to investigate whether ethnic minority doctors get the same opportunities for senior jobs in NHS hospitals as their white colleagues. The investigation has been prompted by several recent cases in which ethnic minority doctors have

won cases against health authorities after failing to win senior posts.

On nurses' pay, the report says that the small number of complaints since the pay regrading exercise was launched four years ago may belie the true picture as many ethnic minority nurses may be unwilling to bring their grievances into the open.

The report warns that discrimination may increase as health authorities seek to speed up the appeal process to clear the backlog over the next few months. "There is an opportunity to put things right but there is also a risk things may get worse," said a spokesman.

The investigation of doctors' appointments will focus on the six specialties which have been the subject of most complaints in seven regions.

Batsman drove car at umpire

A cricketer who had been given out low reversed his car at high speed at the umpire, who hurt his arm as he leapt clear. Members of the opposing team came to the rescue and one smashed the sun roof of Bryn Derbyshire's car with a cricket stump.

Yesterday, Derbyshire, 37, of Bramcote, Nottinghamshire, admitted causing bodily harm by wanton furious driving after the match between his team, Old Park, of Nottingham, and a side from Blyth, Nottinghamshire. Nottingham Crown Court gave him a three-month suspended sentence and ordered him to pay compensation of £400 to the umpire, Joseph Purser, 59.

Afterwards, Mr Purser said: "I stand by my decision. He was out."

Man sought

A nationwide hunt was launched yesterday for Graeme David Jarman, 28, of Stanley, Co Durham, whom police want to question in connection with a rape at St Anne's, Lancashire. He is thought to be touring childhood holiday haunts.

Ancient find

A Bronze Age burial mound containing remains of 13 people has been uncovered by archaeologists from Heritage Lincolnshire at Deeping St Nicholas, near Spalding. It dates from 2,500 BC.

Church charge

A man has been charged with stealing £89,459 from Church of England funds after an investigation in the Warwick parish.

Parents of blind want more help

MOST parents whose children have defective sight get little support for their child's disability, according to a report published yesterday. Parents have called on the government to impose national standards on local authorities to make them assess children's special needs.

One mother with a blind and brain-damaged daughter had one visit from a social worker in five years, the report by the Royal National Institute for the Blind said. Nine in ten parents complained of receiving inadequate support.

The report, *Blind And Partially Sighted Children in Britain*, said that parents' greatest need was for counselling, advice and information. Two in three said that when told of their child's disability they had had no one knowledgeable to talk to. Only 16 per cent received formal counselling. Catherine Carley, whose daughter Jennifer is five, said: "Jennifer was about one when she was fully diagnosed. We had one visit from a social worker but we have not seen one since." Mrs Carley, of Windsor, Berkshire, added: "I had no idea what was available. It's very difficult to keep on asking for help."

Jennifer Bowen, chairwoman of Look, the National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children, said: "Too many children are not getting a square deal. Our members want priority to be given to adequate funding and the end of the crazy set-up where standards vary across the nation."

The health department welcomed the report, saying that it would be useful for developing policy in local and central government.

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Major rejects claim of secret service report on Maxwell

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister denied categorically yesterday that any intelligence information existed about Robert Maxwell's financial dealings.

John Major told the Commons that the government had had no information about Robert Maxwell's financial affairs as had been alleged in a newspaper article, either in 1989 or subsequently. "I saw no such information, my office saw no such information... for the good reason that it never existed at all."

Pointing out that previous governments had refused to comment on the security services, Mr Major said he had made his position clear on Maxwell because of the implications for the pensioners involved.

The article in the *Financial Times* alleged that a report had been prepared for the Joint Intelligence Committee, which is part of the Cabinet Office, at the time of Maxwell's death. It also said that intelligence data on Maxwell business operations had been obtained by intercepting conversations and faxes from Israel and the Mediterranean. Downing Street would not comment yesterday on whether Maxwell had been under surveillance for security matters such as his political links with the Eastern bloc and Israel. A spokesman insisted that the reports referred to in the article did not exist but did not deny that

interceptions may have been made for other reasons.

Mr Major made his position clear after a question from John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, who said the allegations proved that the government had more responsibility than it had admitted to in the affair. Mr McFall urged Mr Major to ask the Treasury to put pressure on the banks to return the £200 million of assets which had been siphoned off from Maxwell pension funds.

The prime minister said Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, had set up a special unit to help trustees trace the missing assets.

Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, said the *Financial Times* report had referred not just to Maxwell but to other national companies that were under surveillance. Mr Hoyle challenged Mr Major to reveal who signed the warrant for this to take place.

"I have no intention of dealing with matters of that sort," Mr Major said. "Every previous government has consistently declined to comment on the activities of the intelligence and security services. I made the point perfectly clear on Maxwell because of the damaging effects that report could have had on the Maxwell pensioners."

David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover, asked the prime minister if he had any information on the confer-

ence in Liechtenstein today to explain the role of Liechtenstein lawyers and others in secreting away Maxwell monies and to confirm that Mr Major would take action to ensure the money was returned as soon as possible. Mr Major said he had no knowledge about the meeting but would make enquiries.

Mr Shaw said later that Mr Major's comments would ensure that the "temperature was warming up" on Liechtenstein and other tax havens. He estimated that about £2 billion was taken out of the UK economy as a result of fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance. He said it was extremely unlikely that the intelligence services would have understood the significance of any intricate financial information even if they had come across it during other surveillance activities.

Diary, page 14
Pensioners to sue, page 19



Taylor: told MPs that water privatisation had led to record numbers of disconnections

Government enquiry to study water shortages

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AN investigation of water conservation, including the possibility of setting up compulsory metering, will begin next month in the wake of renewed fears over water shortages.

David Maclean, the environment minister, said he hoped the consultation paper would attract a "wide range of responses, not just from those areas short of water but also from those areas which are perceived to have plenty of it."

"All the water delivered to our homes is of drinking water standard but only 2 per cent is used for drinking and each year our overall consumption increases by 1 per cent." He denied Opposition claims that the government favoured metering, but said that the method would be one of the options considered.

Mr Maclean faced accusations from Ann Taylor, Labour's environmental protection spokeswoman, that privatisation of the water companies had led to record numbers of disconnections, increases in charges and in salaries for top management. Opening an Opposition de-

bate on the water industry since privatisation, Mrs Taylor said water bills had risen at three times the rate of inflation, while "multi-million pound perks are on offer to the favoured few" in the water companies.

Many people who had never previously been in debt had received summonses from the new water companies. In 12 months, 900,000 court summonses had been issued and 21,000 houses had been disconnected, a 177 per cent increase on the previous year. She called on the government to intervene so that water companies could not disconnect unless there was wilful refusal to pay a bill. Privatisation of the industry had cost taxpayers £3.3 billion, Mrs Taylor said.

Labour had warned of what would happen, but she added: "There is no satisfaction in being proved right, especially when the cost to so many people has been so great." The government's sale of the industry in a "ridiculous deal" was a "triumph of privatisation dogma over consensus."

Criticising the role of regu-

lators, Mrs Taylor said: "The public need confidence in the regulators. That confidence is not there at the moment." She said that water metering was not the answer to conserving water resources and could lead to suffering among large families and those with medical needs.

Mr Maclean said that Labour had chosen to debate water in its confusion over more complex issues and was relying on old prejudices. Capital investment by the water companies represented 50 per cent of turnover, a far higher proportion than by Britain's major companies. This "massive investment programme" of £28 billion over ten years followed severe underinvestment over the past 30 years.

Mr Maclean said that charges would increase by 63 per cent by the end of the century "because that is the only way of paying for the improvements that the public have clearly indicated they want and expect". He said it was not for the government to dictate to companies what the salaries of management should be.

Prime minister promises power to the people

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to give greater choice to ordinary people were promised last night by the prime minister as he sought to quell the internal Tory feud over Europe by redirecting attention to his radical domestic agenda for the 1990s.

In a speech that will have pleased the many restive Thatcherites in the new intake of more than 60 Tory MPs, John Major pronounced the death rites over socialism and underlined his personal commitment to using the citizen's charter to enhance the themes of choice, opportunity, responsibility and ownership that had paid rich dividends in the 1980s.

The challenge facing the party was to spread freedom and opportunity ever wider and ever deeper, he told a dinner in London organised by the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think-tank. The next phase in the Conservative "evolution" would be the

"privatisation of choice". The aim would be to shift the balance of choice more radically than ever before into the hands of ordinary people. "We are chopping Goliath down to size. We are giving people the stings and stones to do it."

Mr Major said that the "chattering classes" had failed to appreciate how deep lay the roots of the Conservative revolution. "We live in a new country. People have greater self confidence, independence and ambition. Forelock tugging belongs to yesterday."

Old habits died hard, however. "Among too many people in this country — people who take the easy choices of prosperity and privilege for granted — there is still an arrogance which assumes that people who have little, or are dependent on public services, cannot be trusted with choice."

Mr Major drew on his humble boyhood in Braddon to argue that in his experience people's aspirations were not limited by their modest means. "They want to be independent, not dependent on town hall or benefit office. They want a share in this country, a hand up not a hand-out."

Arguing that stifling freedom bred resentment, Mr Major promised a lighter hand for government. In spite of the advances of the past 13 years, Britain remained one of the most over-governed nations in Europe. The review of the structure of local government would help to remedy that.

On the industrial front, the state would be taken out of the marketplace. Taxes would be cut to enable people to keep more of their earnings.

The prime minister singled out education, housing, law and order and health as areas where users would be put more securely in the driving seat. Measures were in hand to give tenants new rights to buy, improve and rent their properties.

The police had to be made more responsive to the concerns of the public with more officers on the beat and a greater emphasis on better management and greater flexibility in the use of police manpower. "There should be policeman passing your door regularly, and not just when the burglars have called."

Society would always form itself into groups defined by shared attitudes and interests. He could not legislate against snobbery, no matter how much he deplored it. Instead, he wanted to do away with the "old divide" between those who choose and those who have to take what they are given.

Contracts blamed for dispute

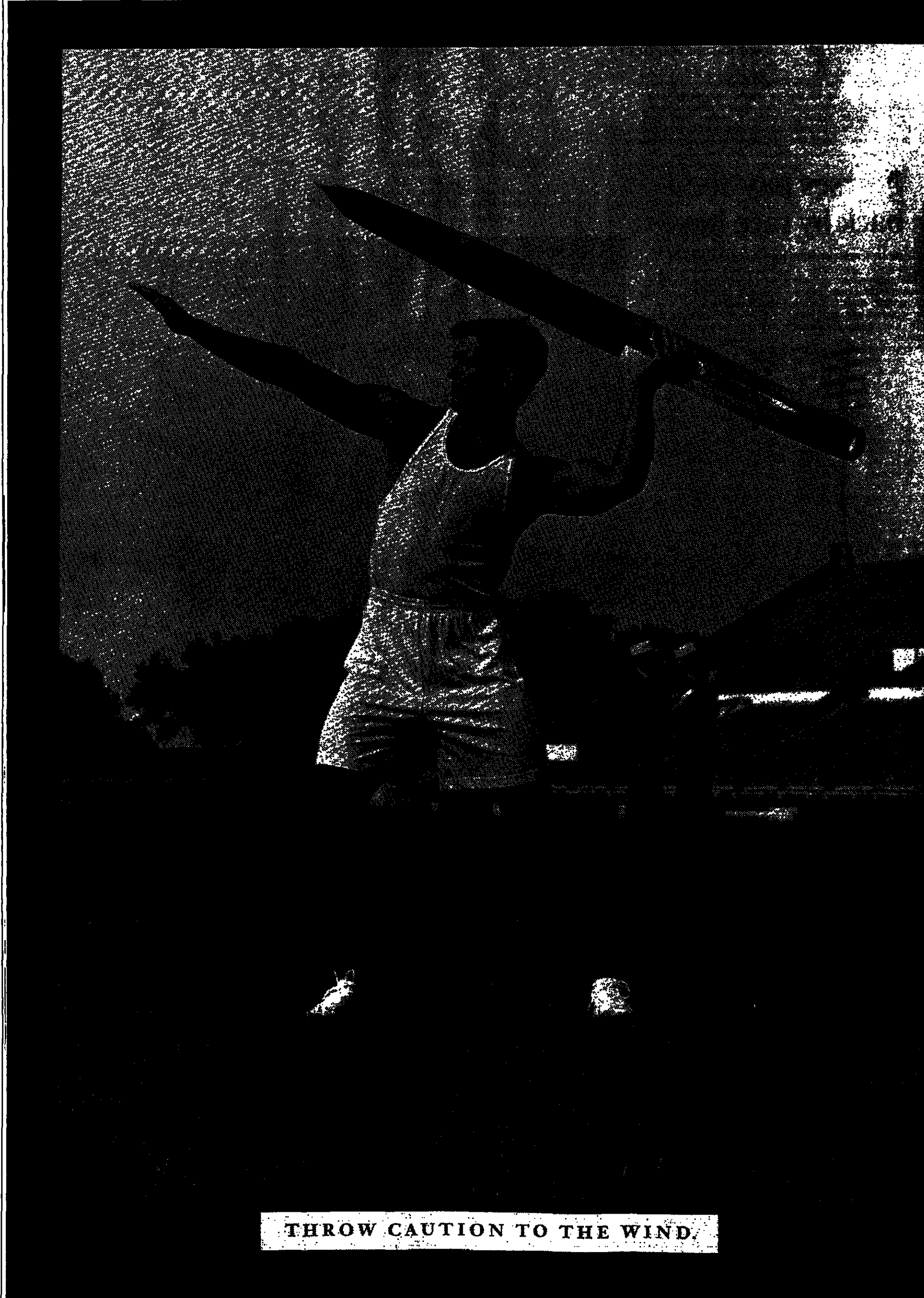
By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health secretary, yesterday fought off allegations that the government had created the current dispute with dentists by forcing the profession to accept new contracts.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, said that the dispute stemmed from contracts imposed "against the wishes of most dentists". The resulting decision by many dentists to withdraw from the NHS led to suspicions that dentistry was being privatised or that the government wanted to privatise it. Dentists are being balloted this week on industrial action over a 7 per cent reduction in their fees.

During health questions Harriet Harman, a Labour spokesman on health, accused the government of breaking patient's charter promises within a month of the charter being launched. In the first month of the charter, 1,999 patients had been waiting more than two years and 10,000 people in London had to wait longer than the 14 minutes within which the charter promised an accident and emergency ambulance would be available in urban areas.

The slight increase in the should be seen in the context of the reduction in the last year, when the total had fallen from 51,000 to less than 2,000. Mrs Bottomley said.



THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND

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Kinnock threatens to back referendum on Maastricht

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH doubts over the government's ability to push through legislation to ratify the Maastricht treaty were raised yesterday as Neil Kinnock threatened that Labour might support a referendum.

Mr Kinnock, who withdrew his application to head the Confederation of European Socialist Parties because of potential conflict between his party's line and the pro-Maastricht approach of his European partners, said that to rule out a referendum would be foolish.

At the same time John Major hinted that Britain's expected support for Jacques Delors to be reappointed as European Commission president for the next two years might be accompanied by an understanding that a new candidate, possibly Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, or Sir Leon Brittan, would take over after that.

In the Commons Mr Major insisted that Britain had yet to decide whether to support M Delors, despite a claim from Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, that as

recently as last weekend the foreign secretary had told Britain's European partners "to let Mr Delors's office know that the government would not stand in the way of his reappointment".

He explained that two appointments needed to be considered: that of Commission president for the next two years, followed by the appointment of someone who would be in office for a full five years after that.

Behind Mr Major's remarks was the apparent belief that the only alternatives to M Delors for the next two years are people such as Martin Bangemann, the West German single market commissioner, and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, who are more federalist than M Delors. It appears the government believes that the way to get a candidate of its choice in two years' time is to go along with M Delors now. A senior source said that Mr Lubbers was not available now, and Sir Leon was not electable because of the short period since the last British president.

The Lisbon summit next week can only deal formally with the imminent two-year term, according to government sources. The clear implication is that there will be informal talks about the longer period.

Mr Kinnock's indication that Labour might support a referendum will worry the government. With support from the Liberal Democrats and the Tory Euro-sceptics, there would be a real possibility of a government defeat. Labour is fast moving to a position where it is likely to oppose the Maastricht bill if and when it returns to the Commons.

Mr Kinnock, speaking in Lisbon, said: "It would be foolish to exclude the possibility of a referendum at some stage on ratification and Britain's role in the EC... It really is a constitutional issue that has got to be resolved within the British democratic system."

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, took a slightly more cautious line in a radio interview. Mr Kaufman said the government's

top priority should be to allow a full Commons debate on the future of the EC before the summer recess in mid-July.

On the referendum question he said: "Both Neil Kinnock and I said at the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting last Wednesday that a referendum could not be ruled out. We have also said that the first thing that has to be decided is whether there is going to be a Maastricht treaty bill to pass. Our own view... is that this bill now is not a valid piece of legislation."

He said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that there was no point in talking about a referendum until it became clear there was still a treaty for Parliament to ratify. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on the same programme: "I can't understand Labour's position or their tactics. If they want to put pressure on the government they must come clean about what they want themselves."

Diary, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15



Ninety minutes is a long time in politics: Walthamstow MP Neil Gerrard stops for breath during a football match against lobby journalists yesterday. The MPs lost 3-0, with Philip Webster of *The Times* scoring one goal



British reforms revived

Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North, revived his attempt to reform radically the British constitution when he presented three connected bills in the Commons. They would replace the House of Lords with an elected chamber; provide for a written constitution; and incorporate the European convention on human rights into United Kingdom law.

In the last parliament Mr Allen launched a similar campaign. His bills in this session have no chance of being enacted and little of being debated.

On the move

The government is planning to disperse more than 18,000 civil service jobs away from the South-East over the next four years, according to a written answer from Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury. It shows that 3,000 defence ministry jobs are to go to Bristol, 1,800 Inland Revenue posts to Nottingham, 1,700 Home Office jobs to Derby, 1,290 Customs and Excise jobs to Liverpool, 1,200 health jobs to Leeds, and 1,000 agriculture ministry jobs to York. More the 5,000 social security jobs are to be distributed throughout the country.

Homes saved

The Council of Mortgage Lenders estimates that the combined effect of measures taken by the government and the lenders since December will save some 55,000 repossessions this year, Tony Baldry, an environment minister, said in a written reply.

Lost duty

The eight-month moratorium on stamp duty on house purchases will cost the Treasury about £400 million, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary, said in a written reply.

Oil earnings

Total revenue to the Exchequer from the North Sea since 1979-80 has been £71 billion, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary, said in a written reply.

£7m bill

The Foreign Office spent £7,102,000 on entertainment last year, Alistair Goodlad, a minister of state, said in a Commons written reply.

Labour report

We wish to make it clear that the report referred to in Monday's story on Labour's election inquest was not the general secretary's report, but an internal paper by a party official; and that the report by the general secretary to the Labour party's National Executive Committee does not in any way blame the Shadow Communications Agency or individuals associated with it for Labour's election defeat.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment, Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on Hong Kong and South China; on Palestinian refugees; and on religious education in schools.

MPs push for big rise in allowance

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, leader of the Commons, is caught in a tussle between MPs and the Treasury over an unpublished report recommending a substantial increase in MPs' allowances.

Conservative and Labour backbench MPs are pressing Mr Newton to publish the report of the Top Salaries Review Body and to support its demand for an increase worth around £20,000 a year for each MP for office expenses and equipment.

MPs are allowed up to £28,986 a year each for office and secretarial assistance. The report is expected to call for a rise to £48,000 a year, with most of the extra money compensating MPs for help in their constituency offices and for equipment.

Mr Newton has not yet persuaded Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, to agree the whole rise this year because of the prospect of public criticism at MPs voting for more money for their staff during a recession. Mr Portillo is understood to be arguing for a slightly more modest rise or for the increase to be phased in over the lifetime of the parliament.

The Commons leader and his predecessor, John MacGregor, have been sitting on the report since March because of sensitivity of publication around election time. But government sources confirmed yesterday that Mr Newton is anxious to publish the report and announce the government's stance next week, if agreement with the Treasury has been reached.

He faced demands from Tory MPs, most notably the younger members, at last week's 1992 backbench committee to implement the whole of the rumoured increase.

The new intake on both sides of the Commons have complained at the lack of back-up facilities and secretarial help they can claim.

In 1982 the MPs defeated the Thatcher government by voting for a large pay rise.

Tory staff sacked

BY KERRY GILL

SIX of the 30-strong staff at the Scottish Conservative party headquarters have been sacked in an attempt to cut overheads and enable the party to operate without extra funding from London.

The most surprising sacking was that of Alice Luce, the press officer, who was regarded by many as a highly competent member of staff whose work during the general election campaign was widely recognised. Jayne Stopani, her assistant, was also made redundant as were Keith Griffiths, a Central Office agent, and Craig Stevenson, a researcher, and two secretaries.

Miss Luce's position will be filled by David Watt, former personal assistant to Lord Sanderson of Bowden, the Scottish party chairman, Graeme Carter, Lord Sanderson's political adviser,

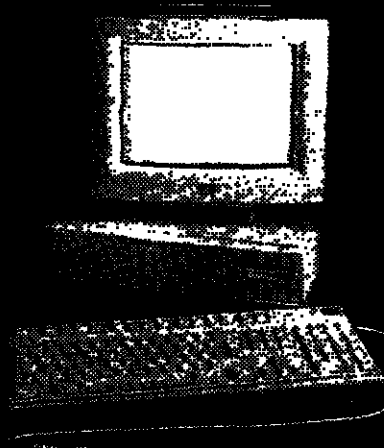
will become head of information and research. Miss Luce, 32, said: "After all the commitment and hard work I put into a professional and successful general election campaign to be treated this way is a real slap in the face."

Yesterday a senior party member said that once the election was over it had become necessary to slim down the operation at head office and cut costs.

Nearly two years ago three party officials were sacked by Lord Sanderson only a matter of days after he took over as chairman from Michael Forsyth.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross, said: "It is monstrous. This is absolutely outrageous and I am very sorry. You simply cannot treat servants of our culture and faith in this sort of way."

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Film will honour life and death of anti-Mafia hero

LESS than a month after Giovanni Falcone was assassinated on the road to Palermo, Giuseppe Ferrara, the film director, has staged his rivals by beginning work on a £5.5 million epic about the life of the anti-Mafia judge.

Critics predict the movie will be a box-office success, catering to the desperate need for Italians to find new heroes in public life. Worship of judges, alive and dead, is growing in Italy in inverse proportion to the flagging fortunes of its politicians. Last week more than 1,000 teenagers converged on a disco in Turin to launch a fan club for Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who has arrested 50 politicians and businessmen in the biggest investigation of political bribery and corruption since the second world war.

"Di Pietro is the symbol of our future," Davide Lambert, an organiser of the event, said. Photographers jostled each other to take pictures of girls wearing T-shirts bearing portraits of the judge, 42, as loudspeakers blared out "anti-bribery rock". *Panorama* magazine said: "The Milan judge seems to be the new Italian hero who is greatly in demand."

Disillusionment with the Italian political class that refuses to relinquish power undoubtedly has helped to boost the popularity of investigators, commentators say. Ten weeks after Italians cast a huge protest vote against traditional parties in a general election, the country seems no nearer to installing a government to replace the discredited caretaker coalition led by Giulio Andreotti, the veteran Christian Democrat.

"I am fed up with this government, there is nothing good on the horizon. Our only hope is Di Pietro," one of the revellers at the Hennessy Disco, Paolo Balocco, told *Corriere della Sera*.

A nation that has lost faith in its corrupt politicians is paying instant tribute to a brave judge, writes John Phillips in Rome

President Scalfaro yesterday began a second week of consultations to try to name a new prime minister. The main candidate, Bettino Craxi, has been badly burnt by the involvement of his Socialist party in the Milan bribery scandal.

Italians disappointed by the antics of Rome politicians cannot even seek much inspiration from sporting figures these days. A Spaniard won the Giro d'Italia bicycle race last weekend only a short time after hopes that the Moro di Venezia yacht would win the America's Cup were dashed.

What is happening in Italy recalls the idolising in the United States of crime-busting figures such as Thomas Dewey, the Manhattan prosecutor who took on the New York Mafia and went on to challenge Harry Truman for the presidency, or Elliot Ness, whose role in bringing down Al Capone was lionised in the film *The Untouchables*.

Signor Ferrara first made a name for himself with his film *One Hundred Days of Palermo*, about the killing by the Mafia in 1982 of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa. The film-maker knew Signor Falcone well. The judge acted as his technical adviser for the filming of the gory re-enactment of the ambush of the carabinieri general. "The scene of the attack gave me great difficulty," Signor Ferrara says. "Falcone gave me important advice." The director has been criticised by some of his colleagues, who say he is

marketing the project insensitively while the family and friends of the judge are still in mourning.

His flamboyant rival, Franco Zeffirelli, for example, has accused him of "cannibalism". Signor Ferrara responds that he will respect relatives of the judge; if necessary, he will communicate with them for information only by letter. "I believe the cinema should serve to demonstrate that certain dead persons live on in the conscience of the people," Signor Ferrara says.

Nevertheless Signor Ferrara must hurry. At least three other directors are working on competing movies about the assassination on May 23. The vulnerability of the judges evidently contributes to their attraction. Signor Di Pietro's escort has been increased since the Falcone killing. His wife and daughter also are guarded whenever they leave their home in the Bergamesco countryside. His family is restricted to what the Italian press calls "a bullet-proof existence".

The dilapidated Palace of Justice where Signor Di Pietro has his offices has become the most hallowed shrine for ordinary Milanese after the city's colossal cathedral. Autograph hunters loiter on its steps looking for the magistrate. He receives 150 fan letters a day. Security is relaxed at his headquarters. Only one carabinieri policeman guards the main entrance to the building, which is decorated with plaques dedicated to murdered investigators.

Pino Arlacchi, Italy's leading criminologist, believes the Milan judge can serve as a model in the Mafia-ridden Mezzogiorno, where the risks run by courageous magistrates are probably higher than in the northern business capital. "Di Pietro certainly can be imitated. He is a great example of honest and tenacious normality. Certainly, there are tremen-



Martyr in the war on crime: Giovanni Falcone, target of the Mafia whom he pursued and, below, the wreckage of his burnt-out car. A race is now on to film his career and show that he lives on in the conscience of Italians

dous obstacles in the south. But one can do what Di Pietro does, that is to say simply to apply the law."

Signor Di Pietro's enquiries in what was codenamed "Operation Clean Hands" disclosed what his boss, Severio Borrelli, the chief prosecutor, called "a whole system of corruption pouring out like oil".

Politicians from the main parties, including the Christian Democrats and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left, were found to be taking bribes from businessmen in return for lucrative public works contracts. Much of the money was then stashed in Swiss bank accounts for use as party coffers.



Irish expect EC to close gap between rich and poor states

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE new European Community budget will be generous enough to the Irish Republic to help to close the gap between the EC's poorest states and their wealthier neighbours, David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, said yesterday on the eve of his country's referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Andrews, whose government sounds increasingly worried about the outcome of tomorrow's vote, aimed his pro-treaty speech in Brussels at the republic's stake in the

EC's next five-year budget. Two ministerial meetings in the past fortnight have attacked the original package as unaffordable.

Mr Andrews said that for the first time since the republic joined the EC "it seems possible for us to make serious inroads into closing the gap between ourselves and our more prosperous partners". He said it was wrong to claim that the Delors budget would be cut back over the next few months. But he did not repeat the claim made

during the referendum campaign by Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, that the republic's share of EC funds would double to £6 billion in the period 1993-97.

Although all 12 EC governments have agreed to set up a "cohesion fund" for the four poorest EC states, no decision has been reached on its size. Britain, France and Germany are all contesting M Delors's claim that regional funds, from which Dublin benefits, should be doubled. Mr Andrews also said that

the republic could not be drawn into "military alignment and ensuing conflict" by the Maastricht treaty's brief reference to an eventual common defence policy. The treaty nowhere defines what that might mean, but the Irish Republic and some other neutral countries applying to join the EC insist that this means international peace-keeping and nothing more. "There is nothing in the treaty about conscription or a European army," he said.

He added that he did not believe that the Irish campaign would be affected by the surge of anti-treaty feeling at Westminster. "If the Irish vote is to be in any way influenced by that sort of help Ireland," he said, "God help Ireland."

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Andrews: Ireland will benefit from budget

Major goes with Delors tide

BY GEORGE BROCK

ON THE night he returned from the Maastricht summit last December, John Major addressed a dinner for Conservative members of the European parliament on the subject of Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. From now on, the prime minister told the MEPs, the government will stop knocking M Delors and try to work with him.

In the effervescent aftermath of Mr Major's negotiating success at Maastricht, the government decided to make a virtue of necessity. If M Delors's reappointment was unavoidable, ministers would both try to rein him in and to rehabilitate his image. However, the attempt to sell M Delors as a humble civil ser-

vant was half-hearted, began late and has now run into ferocious resentment on the backbenches.

Retaining M Delors, Tony Marlow, MP, said, this week, would be as logical as "reappointing Napoleon as emperor after the battle of Waterloo".

When Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister who will chair the EC Lisbon summit next week, arrives in London tomorrow, Mr Major has little choice but to join the chorus of approval for the extension of M Delors's tenure for two years. Since Britain cannot produce a rival, Mr Major's only alternative would be to ask for the decision to be delayed.

In the tense and febrile atmosphere provoked by the Danish referendum on the Maastricht treaty, a request for a pause would be treated as a hostile act by all 11 of Britain's partners. Mr Major has based his entire strategy inside the EC on avoiding being boxed into vulnerable isolation.

The selection of a European Commission president reveals the inner workings of EC power politics. Nominating the head of the 17-strong Commission and the Commission's 13,000 officials is almost the only detailed power reserved for the Community's 12 leaders. Like virtually every "decision" made by these summits, the question is settled in advance.

UN report accuses Croats of coveting Bosnian land

BY ROGER BOYES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United Nations Security Council yesterday was considering a report on the Yugoslav conflict which blames not only Serbia for the war in Bosnia but also accuses Croatia of fighting for land in the beleaguered republic.

The Croatian role in the Bosnian war has been played down so far by the West, partly because Zagreb's culpability is indeed much smaller than that of Belgrade. It is Serbian, not Croatian, forces which until this week's ceasefire have been bombarding and starving out the city of Sarajevo. Moreover, the debilitated Bosnian leadership does not want to open a second diplomatic front against Croatia when it is fighting for the republic's physical survival. It has been politely listening to Zagreb's proposals for a Bosnian-Croatian confederation.

Even so, the Zagreb government has been pursuing its own strategy in Bosnia and seems to be as ready as Belgrade to consider the dismemberment of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Croatian leadership under President Tudjman has been trying diligently to avoid the impression of making a Serbian-style land grab in Bosnia. Zagreb recognised the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina and has made no territorial claims. Privately, President Tudjman has long talked of the need to partition Bosnia, and at the last European Community session before the war began

force already approved in principle by the security council to reopen the airport, saying that continued fighting made access to it difficult.

Meanwhile, agency reports from Belgrade said that a ceasefire in Sarajevo stabilised yesterday, bolstering UN preparations for an emergency aid airlift to civilians.

Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, said yesterday that France was ready to send extra troops to Yugoslavia to form a task force with Russian and Egyptian soldiers to protect Sarajevo airport. "The goal is to avoid a genocide of the people of Sarajevo," he told reporters attending a military exercise in southern France.

He said in a report to the security council that installations at the airport, now in the hands of Serb forces, were "in better condition than had been feared". But he added that lack of electricity made it impossible for the 30-man United Nations reconnaissance team to check equipment in the control tower and the approach beacons, and said that no fuel tankers for fire engines remained.

Dr Boutros Ghali said that an agreement would shortly be signed with the Serbs controlling the airport on the removal of all heavy weapons. He did not, however, recommend the immediate deployment of a 1,000-strong UN

force already approved in principle by the security council to reopen the airport, saying that continued fighting made access to it difficult.

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Moravia accused of anti-Semitic link

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

FRIENDS of the novelist Alberto Moravia leaped to his defence yesterday after it was disclosed that one of his short stories was published in a French anti-Semitic magazine in 1941.

Renzo Paris, a poet and writer, made public the existence of the translation of the short story, *Morte Improvvisa* (Unexpected Death), in the French magazine *Je Suis Parout*, which was edited by the anti-Semitic ideologist, Robert Brasillach, during the Nazi occupation of France. Signor Paris has suggested that Moravia, who was half Jewish, must have been aware of the publication but apparently took no measures to denounce his manipulation by the French far right.

Fascist authorities in Italy censored Moravia's works and he was forced to flee from his home in Rome. Signor Paris contends that Moravia, a lifelong sympathiser with the Italian Communist Party, should no longer be considered a man of the left after the literary discovery. *Morte Improvvisa* is a violent criticism of the corrupt Italian bourgeoisie of the period between the wars.

"Certainly the Catholic and conservative Brasillach, who did not know of Moravia's links with Jewishness, published a tale so contrary to his own ideology for various different motives," Signor Paris told *La Stampa*. He suggested those might be "to show himself as an intellectual lacking prejudices by translating a writer considered ob-

scene who was a known anti-fascist, but above all because the work of Moravia is very complex."

Dacia Maraini, a writer and former companion of Moravia, said she believed he probably was unaware of the translation by the French magazine. "Alberto was always attacked by the right as well as by the left, by the Catholics because they held that he was a pornographer, but also by those moralists on



Moravia: attacked by left as well as right

the left according to whom men ought to be made up only of ideas and not of flesh," Enzo Siciliano, the writer, who is president of the Alberto Moravia Foundation, also joined in complaints at what he sees as a slur on the author. Signor Siciliano said that in protest he would not take part in a debate on Moravia organised last night in memory of the writer by Rome city council.

McDonald's Russian chips stick in Polish throats

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE Americanisation of Eastern Europe advanced another step yesterday when McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in Poland. In a disclosure that is certain to spark controversy, Andrzej Konopski, the manager, admitted that he would be serving chips made from Russian, and not Polish, potatoes.

"We don't like this at all," a Peasants' Party spokesman said. "What is wrong with Polish potatoes?" East Europeans have been happy enough so far to be invaded by American consumer goods companies. Pepsi and Coke are engaged in a cola war for the East European soft-drinks market. Levi jeans has opened a factory in the Polish city of Plock. American building com-

panies are offering prefabricated houses modelled on small-town America, and the grandest symbol of any Warsaw playboy is a petro-guzzling Pontiac.

In the absence of serious investment from other economic powers, Central Europe has set up none of the cultural barricades erected by France or Italy, where slow food restaurants are defiantly being established.

That may well be changing, however. Before Polish television celebrities and columnists elbow their way to the counter for free Big Macs yesterday, they dismissed McDonald's executives with questions about how much American consumer giants actually contributed to the economy. McDonald's emphasised that it will use local apple

juice, Polish lettuce and dairy products. Moreover, the first restaurant will employ 500 Poles and a further five fast-food branches are planned in the country over the next two years. The company argues, quite persuasively, that the system of franchises will help to spawn a new management class. But McDonald's is coming up against some resistance in Eastern Europe.

In Prague, the city council has been reluctant to approve a new fast-food site in the middle of the Old Town. In Budapest, dozens of local employees have had to be dismissed because they could not keep up with the American time-and-motion work pace.

The new democracies of the East are starting to demand quid pro quos from

the American investors. Thus Coca Cola was allowed to buy a Czech bottling company only after it agreed to donate funds to Prague Zoo.

Most American entrepreneurs believe they are giving Central Europe a good deal. The products are competitively priced and profits are not expected for some years.

The reason is that the American companies are building forward bases for the Americanisation of the former Soviet Union. McDonald's has a fast-food flagship in Moscow, but most companies are waiting for the consumer market to mature — and the Russian currency to stabilise — before shifting further east. Thus Philip Morris, the American cigarette manufacturer, has just bought Tabak, the Czechoslovak

state tobacco company. The purpose of the factory will be to meet "a phenomenal growth of exports to Russia, which is short of cigarettes, and also to Central Asia."

Louis Camilleri, a Philip Morris vice-president, remarked recently. Domestic consumer producers — not to mention the Polish farmers — feel that they have been edged into a corner by the Western giants, unable to compete with the costly advertising campaigns launched by American companies. President Walesa, irritated by the new advertising culture of his country, recently complained that the West was dumping "brightly packaged rubbish" on Poland. Certainly after decades of under-stimulation, the Central European consumer

now finds himself courted from all sides and is spending harder and more rapidly than his Western consumer counterpart.

The first satellite television dishes arrived in Poland in 1989. There are now close to 1.3 million. The first video-recorders appeared in Poland in 1985, and today there are four million. Last year Poles bought 1.2 million colour television sets. General Motors reckons that Poles bought \$1.5 billion (£807 million) worth of cars last year.

Suddenly Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians find they need so many things that they never needed before: pet food, breakfast cereal, peanut butter and cheeseburgers in plastic containers complete with "French fries" from Russia.

If you can't make good home movies with this, take up tiddlywinks.

You don't have to be Einstein to understand the mechanics of this palmcorder.

Your hand should get to grips with it soon enough.

Not difficult, since the S7 has a very compact body with an adjustable hand grip.

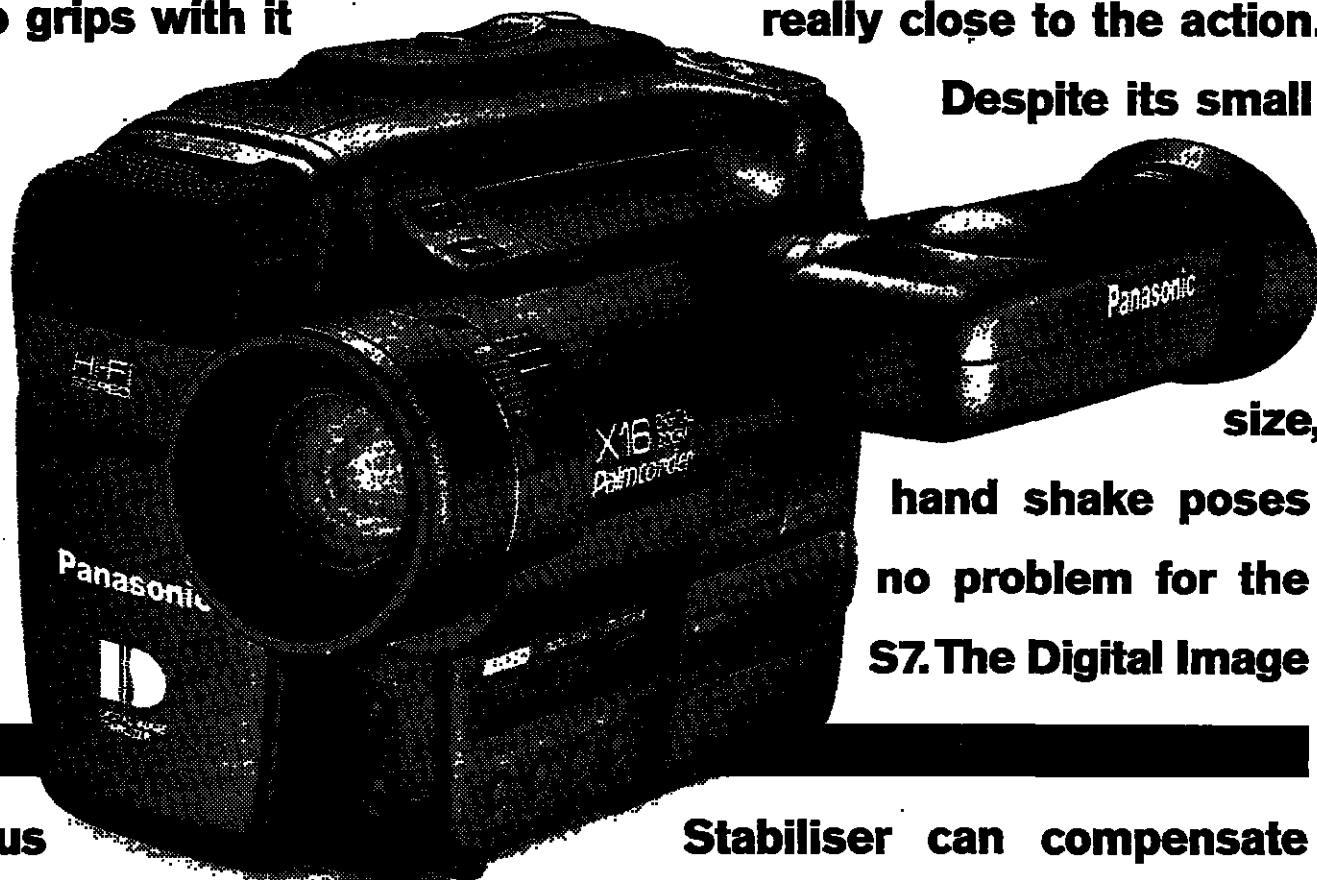
So it does not matter what size your hands are.

What's more you'll only need a couple of fingers to

accurate focusing. The Digital A1 focus will see to that. And a 16x Digital Zoom gets really close to the action.

Despite its small

size, hand shake poses no problem for the S7. The Digital Image



Palmcorder NV S7B

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The quality of the sound is as perfect as the picture thanks to the outstanding hi-fi stereo sound.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police hunt new Russian serial killer

Moscow. A second serial killer has struck in the Russian city of Rostov, where Andrei Kovalev is on trial for 15 deaths. The police are hunting for a second killer. He told a newspaper in Moscow that the murders were committed in the city since the beginning of the year. The murders were committed in the city since the beginning of the year. The murders were committed in the city since the beginning of the year.

Rome cracks

Rome. Visitors to the city may be advised to wear protective helmets in the future. The city is cracking down on the use of firearms in the city.

Slovak pleads

Vienna. A Slovak politician has pleaded for a referendum in Vienna to decide whether to join the European Union.

Family fails

Brussels. People in the European Union are urged to support the family unit in the face of social challenges.

Town cut off

Paris. A town in France has been cut off from the rest of the country due to heavy snow.

Pay freeze

Wellington. A pay freeze has been imposed on public sector workers in New Zealand.

via accused of Semitic link

by JOHN PHILLIPS

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ANC marks day of action with plea to end violence

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

DESPITE an overnight death toll of at least 25, the first day of mass action planned by the African National Congress and its allies passed off more in the spirit of a winter holiday.

Basking in the mild sunshine, thousands of black workers heard speeches from the ANC stalwarts. Police and defence force patrols kept a low profile, but there was plenty of local and international media attention for Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, who unveiled a memorial to Hector Petersen, the first schoolboy to die in the 1976 Soweto uprising.

June 16 marks Soweto Day and it is already a quasi-public holiday, at least so far as the black community is concerned. Employers of black unionised labour such as De Beers, the mining giant, or Checkers, the supermarket chain, have long had agreements with their employees that they can take the day off if they want to. De Beers workers belonging to the National Union of Mineworkers were not at work, but anyone engaged in essential services was expected to turn up and certain operations continued.

The all-white Mineworkers Union issued a statement attacking the mine-owners for treating it "like a spare wheel

that is hauled out in times of crisis and dusted off and put away in a dark corner once the crisis has passed". The union told what it called the *geldreus*, the money-grants, that they should no longer take the loyalty of the white worker for granted.

Commuter trains from the townships mostly ran empty. The usually ubiquitous minibus taxis were absent from the streets. Central Johannesburg had a Sunday air, with street hawkers and traders a good deal thinner on the ground than normal.

The largely unexplained violence was confined to the townships on the East Rand and in Vaal triangle south of Johannesburg. Five passengers were killed and another 18 wounded when three men with AK47s opened up on a crowded railway platform near Benoni on Monday evening. Six others were killed when an armed group fired at a minibus taxi near Vereeniging. The group then killed three members of the ANC who were patrolling nearby.

While the trouble was confined to such black-on-black incidents, the residents of the white suburbs were able to continue their lives untroubled. Traffic was light, some of the restaurants closed because staff did not turn up, but the shopping malls and rows of boutiques were open as usual.

Some delivery vans did not arrive as expected but the townships seemed a long way off.

Mr Mandela, however, was somewhat reassuring. "Do not be provoked into violence," he told a 40,000-strong crowd in the Orlando football stadium in Soweto. "By killing and revenge you do not help the community. Carrying violence to the white areas would be a disaster of the first magnitude."

That has not stopped the government from playing up the threat of violence. The air was thick with appeals from ministers to the ANC not to go ahead with their programme of mass action and with threats from other ministers that the police and armed forces were on standby to ensure that property and persons would be protected.

But the ANC made it clear that it had every intention of going on with the disruption. "We shall press the government to accept democracy," insisted Mr Mandela, to the delight of his supporters, many wearing "Forward to Victory" T-shirts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strikers fight India reforms

Delhi: One person was killed yesterday during a strike by about 12 million Indian workers against radical economic reforms they fear could cost many jobs, officials said.

Reports from around the country suggested that the strike, marred by scattered violence, was only partly successful outside West Bengal, where it was supported by the Marxist government, one of the most vociferous opponents of reform. Buta Dev Bhattacharya, West Bengal's information minister, said in Calcutta, the state capital, that one member of a communist trade union was killed in a clash with workers supporting the federal Congress party government. The communists were trying to enforce the strike at a tea estate.

Elsewhere, the police intervened with tear gas to defuse confrontations between people for and against the strike. (Reuters)

Yemen killing

Sanaa: Gunmen murdered the brother of Haider Abu Bakr al-Atas, the Yemeni prime minister, Sanaa radio said. It described the gunmen as "criminals... who aim to disrupt security and block the march of unity". (Reuters)

Five accused

Abuja: Beko Ransome-Kuti, a Nigerian human rights campaigner, and four other democracy activists appeared in court charged with treason after riots in Lagos last month. Their request for bail was being considered. (AFP)

Money charges

Perth: Brian Burke, a former Australian ambassador to the Irish Republic, forced to resign last year because of an official enquiry into his business dealings, was charged with five counts of false pretences. (Reuters)

Crushed vodka

Kabul: Islamic fundamentalist troops used a tank to crush 4,000 bottles of vodka in Kabul in a warning against drinking alcohol in Afghanistan. They forced shopkeepers who had stocked it to watch the destruction. (AFP)

Priest accused

Melbourne: Father Vincent Kiss, a Roman Catholic priest, was sent for trial accused of stealing £1.1 million from charities to support a lavish lifestyle, said to include a holiday home in the Philippines. (Reuters)

Bored to blazes

Sydney: Derek Blackmore, 24, an Australian volunteer fireman accused of starting a series of blazes, including one at Sydney airport, said he was bored with having nothing to do at the fire station, a Sydney court was told. (Reuters)



Lone vigil: Margaret Thatcher stands alone yesterday in the British war cemetery at San Carlos in the Falkland Islands, the point at which the first British soldiers came ashore in the 1982 campaign to recapture the islands from Argentina. Mrs Thatcher is attending celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the islands' liberation

German captives should be free today Bonn denies making deal to gain hostages release

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE two Hamadi brothers jailed in Germany are likely to see their prison conditions eased after the expected release of the German hostages, Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said yesterday. At the same time he firmly denied that there had been any behind-the-scenes negotiations with the hostage takers in Lebanon.

"We have not let ourselves be blackmailed in any way," he said in a radio interview. "We have made no assurances and no financial means have been promised or transferred." At the same time he rejected criticism from the families of the two hostages that Germany could have done more to secure their release earlier. "Everything possible was done," he said.

Bernd Schmidbauer, the minister of state at the German chancellery, who is in Beirut to collect the two Germans, Heinrich Struëbig and Thomas Kempfner, who were kidnapped in 1989, said that he was expecting their release by this morning. He told reporters after talks with President Hrawi of Lebanon: "I am sure that within the next 12 hours we will leave for Germany. We will not leave without the hostages."

Before leaving for his meeting with Mr Hrawi, Herr Schmidbauer was joined at Beirut's Bristol hotel by Giandomenico Picco, the United Nations hostage negotiator who helped win the release of the last nine American and British hostages in Lebanon last year.

Conflicting reports about the Germans' whereabouts were typical of the confusion surrounding earlier hostage handovers when agonising hours would be spent between the times of their reported release and their actual handover to diplomats. In a statement on Monday the Iranian-backed "Freedom Strugglers" said they were releasing "the two Germans because of 'positive results' in negotiations over the Hamadi brothers. While denying any deal, Herr Kinkel suggested that there could be an improvement in their prison conditions.

One of the two, Muhammad Ali, was slightly injured last year in a fight at the Schwabstadt prison near Frankfurt, where he is serving a life sentence for hijacking a TWA plane and killing a passenger, a US Navy diver, in 1985. He has complained that he needs extra protection.

He would also like to be reunited in prison with his brother, Abbas, who is serving a 13-year sentence imposed in 1988 for helping to kidnap two German businessmen in Beirut.

Abbas could be paroled in about four years time, when he has served half of his sentence. Muhammad, however, would not normally be eligible for early release from his life sentence until the start of the next century.

The German government has repeatedly insisted that it cannot do anything to change the sentences imposed on the two brothers by the independent courts. It is possible, however, under Article 456a of the criminal law to release them, provided they are immediately expelled from the country. This article was used in 1983 when a Libyan, sentenced to life for the murder of a Libyan diplomat, was sent home in exchange for four Germans serving long sentences there.

A quick release of this kind is seen as unlikely, however, since it would anger the Americans, who originally tried without success to extradite Muhammad to stand trial for shooting the navy diver.

Aggressive Rabin puts Shamir on defensive

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was thrown on the defensive last night only a week before the general election when Yitzhak Rabin, his main rival, savaged the Likud party's record in office during a televised debate.

The opposition Labour party leader appeared to win a decisive points victory over Mr Shamir, who seemed relaxed but failed to rebut convincingly charges made against his administration. The debate could have an important effect on swaying undecided voters at a point in the campaign where polls suggest the two parties are finely balanced.

Mr Rabin, 70, a former prime minister best remembered as the chief of staff who masterminded the victory over Arab armies in the six-day war, led the offensive yesterday when he made a spirited attack against Likud's record on the Middle East peace process, foreign affairs, Jewish immigration and the economy.

In particular, he accused the ruling Likud government of throwing away the chance to make peace with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbours by its insistence on pumping millions of pounds into the construction of politically inspired Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The policy had alienated the United States, Israel's greatest ally, which had withheld \$5.5 billion in loan guarantees which were meant to help in absorbing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Mr Shamir tried to defend his record, emphasising the difficulties of absorbing the equivalent of 10 per cent of the population and insisted that no policy was more important to the future of the country than keeping the occupied West Bank and Gaza, regarded as the biblical Land of Israel. "There is no way of achieving peace through territorial concession," the Israeli leader insisted. He counter-attacked by accusing the Labour party of laying the groundwork for a Palestinian state in the occupied territories because of Mr Rabin's commitment to granting autonomy for its Arab population of 1.7 million.

Ramos wins race for president

Fidel Ramos, 64, who helped to topple a dictator and defeat six coup attempts, has won the Philippines presidential race.

The official tally after five weeks of counting showed the West Point-trained general securing 5.34 million votes. In second place was Miriam Santiago, the fiery anti-corruption crusader, with 4.47 million votes.

Dan Quayle, the vice-president puzzled elementary school pupils when he made a boy in Trenton, New Jersey, misspell the word potato. The boy went to the blackboard, wrote "potato" and was told by Mr Quayle he was missing a letter. When the puzzled boy added an "e", making the word "potatoe", Quayle praised him to the amazement of reporters.

Waka Shirahama, Japan's oldest person, has died at her home. She was 114 and had nine children, 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Mian Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, flew into London for a five-day visit and meetings with

John Major. They are expected to discuss Pakistan's territorial dispute with India over Kashmir and the non-proliferation of nuclear arms. The Queen will receive him at Windsor on Friday.

Twyla Tharp, 50, the dancer who choreographed the dance sequences in *Amadeus*, was among the 33 recipients of MacArthur Foundation "genius" grants.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, visited Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, and said the experience helped him to understand the country's meaning to the Jewish people. The museum chronicles the rise of Nazism in Germany.

Marina Tsintikidou, 21, a model from Greece, was crowned Miss Europe at a beauty pageant in Athens. Czechoslovakia's Pavlina Paburgova, 19, was first runner-up, followed by Turkey's Banu Sagmak, 19. Contestants from 33 countries took part in the pageant, which was held at the Zappeion Mansion in Athens.



Ship of the future: a helicopter hovering above the world's first ship to use superconducting magnetic coils during its abortive sea trial yesterday

Magnetic ship trial aborted

Kobe: Researchers cut short the inaugural sea trials in Kobe harbour yesterday of the world's first electromagnetic ship because an emergency warning shut down its superconducting magnets.

"We cut off the current for safety purposes," said Ken-ichi Imaichi, a professor at Osaka University closely involved with the seven-year project to develop a vessel eventually able to cruise at up to 100 knots (115 mph).

The equipment on board the revolutionary new vessel, the first in the world to use superconducting magnetic coils as a means of propulsion, was extremely sensitive. Professor Imaichi said. The weather during the trials was severe. (AFP)

Iraq 'will try again for nuclear bomb'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE West was warned yesterday that it was only a matter of time before Iraq tried again to build a nuclear bomb. A tighter embargo and continuing inspections would be needed, Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said yesterday.

"For the time being our inspectors have cut the head off efforts to turn Iraq into a nuclear threat," he said. But, speaking in Rome where he is attending a conference on nuclear weapons, Mr Zifferero said Iraq still had a large supply of funds because of its oil wealth. "And its huge team of [nuclear] scientists is still in place," he added. "They have got the knowhow

and the people, so it is only a matter of time before they could try to make a bomb."

United Nations inspectors left Iraq this month after disabbling part of its nuclear capability. Mr Zifferero hoped the destruction of suspected nuclear plants would be completed by August. The warning came as American intelligence agencies concluded in a confidential report that President Saddam Hussein was politically stronger than he was a year ago, despite economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation. According to Washington's latest intelligence assessment, reported in *The New York Times*, the Iraqi leader has begun to rebuild by obtaining goods from Jordan in violation of sanctions and by tapping into hidden reserves.

Despite the Washington report, Baghdad said yesterday that it had been forced to halt all domestic flights indefinitely because of a lack of spare parts caused by the UN sanctions. The official Iraqi news agency, INA, said the last two passenger flights still operating had been halted because maintenance could not be carried out on the planes. The agency quoted Nouredin al-Safi, director-general of Iraqi Airways, as saying: "No more spare parts are available for the planes in the country."

Under sanctions regulations, Iraq's air space is closed to international flights and Iraqi civilian aircraft are grounded, except for two flights daily between Baghdad and Basra, using Ilyushin transport aircraft.

Talks between UN and Iraqi officials on the possible lifting of the embargo on Iraq's oil exports are due to go ahead on Friday.

Caped crusader returns to rescue struggling Hollywood

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

Holy bat mania! Box office records are expected to be — Wham! — smashed this weekend when *Batman Returns*, the \$65 million (£35 million) sequel to the 1989 *Batman*, is released across America.

The world premiere last night at Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood was attended by such luminaries as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Bob Kane, the creator of the original 1940s comic book character. But *Batman* has come a long way since the days when Bat merchandise was limited to a toy batmobile and a stretch blue nylon *Batman* outfit.

The 1989 *Batman* brought in \$251 million at the box office, making it the sixth highest grossing film in history. But the real smiles at Warner Brothers came with the extra \$500 million generated by licensed *Batman* merchandise, from the official black-and-orange T-shirt to breakfast bar cereal.

The film stars Michelle Pfeiffer as a slinky and leather-clad Cat Woman with a fondness for whips and Danny DeVito as the villainous Penguin who spits black bile from his underground sewer. An animal rights group has protested at the use of real penguins in some scenes, claiming that the birds were likely to be frightened by the strange environment.

Batman himself is played by Michael Keaton. His mission is as much to rescue Gotham City from the forces of evil as to rescue Hollywood from the clutches of recent flops such as Steven Spielberg's *Hook*.

Stories are already cluttered with goods from Cat Woman night-dresses to *Batman* slippers. During the shooting Tim Burton, the director, became disgruntled at the stream of merchandising executives who dropped in every day to study the extravagant sets and characters for ideas for products. "I always felt when we were making this movie, the movie was just a slight inconvenience to everything else

that was going on," he said. Michael Keaton, paid an estimated \$10 million for his role as *Batman*, also admitted that being a cog in the *Batman* merchandising machinery could be demoralising. For the new film he is kitted out in a \$100,000 moulded rubber costume and is armed with an arsenal of weapons, including grappling hooks fired from a spear gun.

He's done more for our image than Christopher Lee



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The US-Russian summit

Yeltsin seeks reform ally in Solzhenitsyn

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has telephoned Alexander Solzhenitsyn to express "repentance" over the way the Nobel laureate was treated by former Soviet regimes and urged him to return to the homeland from which he was exiled for anti-Soviet activities in 1958.

The Russian leader placed the emotional, 30-minute call to the author's Vermont retreat within hours of his arrival in Washington last night and told him, according to the president's spokesman, that "Russia's doors are wide open for his return".

Mr Yeltsin promised to do everything he could to ensure that Mr Solzhenitsyn, a Russian nationalist and "one of the great sons of our nation", worked for his people not from a foreign land but from within Russia. Mr Solzhenitsyn, who chronicled the iniquities of the Stalinist labour camps where he was himself incarcerated for eight years, still enjoys huge moral authority in Russia, and his support would be of considerable value to Mr Yeltsin in his struggle to dismantle the communist system.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the spokesman, said the two men discussed the "targeted and painful problems" facing their country and Mr Solzhenitsyn wholeheartedly supported Mr Yeltsin's reform efforts. He urged particularly that Russia's peasants be given land of their own as soon as possible, and expressed concern about the fate of Russians living in other former Soviet republics.

Mr Yeltsin said that he was trying to restore Russia's spiritual values and that Mr Solzhenitsyn had "blazed a trail of truth" that he was seeking to follow. Unlike past regimes, he would tell the Russian people "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth". Russia has met the

principal condition Mr Solzhenitsyn set for his return by permitting the publication of his books, and the author has begun making preparations, though no date has yet been set. His wife, Natasha, recently returned to Moscow to explore the possibilities.

Mr Solzhenitsyn was dragged from his flat in Moscow's Gorky Street by KGB men in February 1974 and forced on to a plane to Frankfurt shortly after *The Gulag Archipelago*, his account of the Soviet labour camp system, was published in Paris. He was deprived of his Soviet citizenship.

His wife and three sons followed him into exile and they have since lived in conditions of extreme privacy on an estate in Cavendish, Vermont, hardly ever appearing in public.

Ten months after his exile, Mr Solzhenitsyn flew to Stockholm to collect the Nobel prize for literature that he had won four years earlier. All the communist bloc countries boycotted the ceremony.

● Moscow: Russia made one of its most demonstrative breaks with its Soviet past when it granted political asylum to a North Korean research student (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The student, Kim Man Tse, is studying physics at Moscow State University and had applied to stay in Russia, saying he wanted to become a Christian priest. Asylum was granted by a presidential decree signed by Mr Yeltsin just before he flew to the Washington summit with President Bush. Mr Kim, who has a wife and child in North Korea, had said that he would suffer persecution in his atheist homeland.

The North Korean ambassador in Moscow last night responded by accusing Russia of "harbouring criminals". He told the Tass news

agency that he had spent the morning discussing Mr Kim's fate at the Russian foreign ministry and Russian diplomats had "promised to decide the question in the spirit of international legal norms" and said nothing about the president's decree. "In so far as Kim Man Tse is a criminal," the ambassador said, "he should be handed over to the North Korean authorities in accordance with the treaty on judicial assistance between our two countries. The fact that Russia has granted him political asylum proves that it protects criminals."

A statement issued by the North Korean leadership in Pyongyang and distributed in Moscow described Mr Kim as a "criminal who has committed serious criminal and economic crimes, not only in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but against North Korean citizens in Russia".

Leading article, page 15



Friendly sign: Mr Bush giving the thumbs-up as he greets Mr Yeltsin after both leaders delivered opening remarks at the White House yesterday

Weinberger may face Iran-Contra charges

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A LAWYER in Washington representing Caspar Weinberger, the former American defence secretary, said yesterday he had been told by a special prosecutor on the Iran-Contra case that his client would be indicted on criminal charges.

Robert Bennett, a defence lawyer, said he had been informed by Craig Gillen, an independent counsel, that prosecutors would ask a federal grand jury to return an indictment against Mr Weinberger. Mr Bennett said he did not know the charges that would be brought against him.

If indicted, Mr Weinberger would be the first member of the Reagan cabinet to be charged in the Iran-Contra special prosecutors' investigation into the scandal. It centred on the sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of millions of dollars in profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in 1985-6, despite a congressional ban on American military assistance.

Prosecutors have been investigating efforts by top Reagan aides to conceal the scandal from Congress. Mr Weinberger, defence sec-

tary from 1981 to 1987, was one of Mr Reagan's closest aides.

In another development, President Bush's older brother, Prescott Bush, has been named as a defendant in a \$2.5 million (£1.3 million) breach of contract suit filed in a federal court by a Japanese company that has been linked to mobsters in Japan, according to court papers.

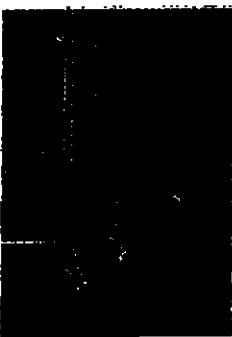
West Tsusho Company, an investment firm that Japanese law enforcement officials claim is controlled by a Japanese organised crime figure, filed a suit in the district court in Manhattan last month. On Monday, a judge granted Mr Bush until June 25 to respond to the charges. The suit alleges that Mr Bush guaranteed \$2.5 million of a \$5 million investment by West Tsusho in a financial services company in 1989.

The company was Asset Management, International Financing & Settlement Ltd, where Mr Bush was an adviser until he resigned two years ago. The firm paid \$500,000 in fees to Mr Bush for obtaining the \$5 million investment for it, according to the court papers.

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Colin Davies, Chief Executive Officer.

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Malcolm Jones, General Manager.

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Sharon Baxter, Sole Trader.

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business outside normal office hours, and improve earnings for us and them."



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Barry Holmes, Partner.

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Michelle Webster, Administration.

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Industrial Information Index.
Melvyn Lebetkin, Director.

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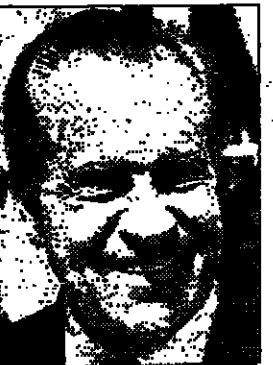
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Nixon dons the hero's mantle

HISTORY has a funny old way of turning the tables. Villains become heroes, the victors become the vanquished. Twenty years ago today a bungled burglary in the Democratic party headquarters on the sixth floor of Washington's Watergate complex led to the biggest constitutional crisis America had seen since the civil war. Within ten months, President Nixon had resigned. His main public pursuers, two young reporters from *The Washington Post*, became national heroes.

But today Mr Nixon has emerged from obloquy. He is regarded as an elder statesman whose views on foreign policy count. Last week Ross Perot, for instance, made a pilgrimage to the New Jersey home of the former president



Nixon: regarded as an elder statesman

to seek advice about foreign policy. In March before an audience containing Washington's intellectual elite, and George Bush, he gave a forceful case for Western aid to the former communist states.

But what of the "Woodstein" twins, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the *Post* reporters who followed the trail of the bugging operation at the Watergate complex all the way to the Nixon White House? Through the film *All the President's Men* they became the most famous journalists in the world. Now their star does not shine so brightly.

Woodward, 49, holds a top management job at the *Post* and has written a series of best-selling books, but his methods have been

questioned and critics say that he relies overmuch on unnamed sources for some of his more extravagant claims.

And Bernstein? He has spent more time in newspaper columns - gossip ones - than writing them. In the 1980s he haunted his many affairs, including one with the wife of a British ambassador. He is still a noted wild partygoer. Recently Bernstein, 48, wrote an article complaining how reporting in America is "distorted by celebrity and the worship of celebrity". No one has noticed Bernstein forgoing the benefits of stardom.

In 1990, *Time* magazine signed him up for \$100,000 (£55,000). In the first 12 months he only wrote five articles. *Time* did not renew the contract.

American newspapers are full of Watergate anniversary material. The *Post* has had a field day reminiscing about its finest hour. Ben Bradlee, the paper's vice-president, even went off to Moscow last week to doorstep Mr Nixon, who was visiting Russia, and to ask him one of the last main unanswered questions of the whole affair: what did he know, and when did he know, in Senator Howard Baker's famous phrase, what his dirty tricks department, nicknamed the plumbers, was up to? Mr Bradlee did not show the persistence the Woodstein twins did in breaking the original story. After 90 minutes standing in the rain in Red Square and no Mr Nixon, the *Post* vice-president wandered off, left only with his memories.

The Linda Lovelace portrait film *Deep Throat* got an added boost from Watergate. The Woodstein twins used the film's title as the code name for their main anonymous establishment source. Trying to guess the identity of *Deep Throat* still passes for a dinner party game among older Washington hands. The game has taken on an added sharpness since the publication recently of a book that claims that General Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, was in fact the ultra-secret source. General Haig has denied the claim.

nos wins race for president

John Major is poised to defeat the Conservative Party's other contender, Michael Heseltine, in the leadership election.

Twelve sharp, 50,000 votes were cast in the election, which was held on June 16.

Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet leader, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War.

Japan's Prime Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, has been elected to a second term.

Shard, Paki, minister New for a four day session with

q 'will try again nuclear bomb

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How to write a dirty novel

Philip Howard asks if formula sex or great literature is the more erotic

The obscene genie has escaped from his bottle. The secret of how to write dirty books, which has obsessively exercised the filthiest minds in Western literature from Martial to Henry Miller, has been spilled in cook-book detail by a professional who makes his living from commissioning them. He is Mr Peter Darvill-Evans, publisher of the Nexus imprint, which is part of Richard Branson's Virgin Publishing. Until news of his latest venture got out, Mr Branson was more famous for schoolboy sums: a clean (though bearded) image than for publishing bespoke pornography.

According to Mr Darvill-Evans, sex books crafted for women are one of the few growth areas in the depressed bookelling market. Virgin's guide to writing them, which is being circulated to potential authors and agents, is quite as specific as Delia Smith giving weights and measures for her recipes.

In his apology for his profession, Mr Darvill-Evans writes: "I don't want to sound pompous or pretentious, but to some extent this is a campaign against censorship and for choice. Setting up an erotica imprint for women is a step in the right direction of freedom and sexual equality. Sex is surely a good thing. People like doing it. They like reading about it."

As the librarian said to the book-borrower: "It's not a dirty book, it's an earthy book, which is a very different thing." The Virgin guide lists simple rules for would-be authors. "There are limits to what is acceptable, but they are broad-based. All clinical and slang terms for parts of the body and sexual acts are permissible [sic]. Nothing is forbidden. However, bear in mind that obscene words lose their impact if used repeatedly." Writers are told that there must be "as much varied and exciting sex as possible", and the guide is similarly prescriptive about style: "Don't be tempted to write a literary masterpiece. Our readers want a sexy story. What keeps the Nexus reader turning the pages is the next 'dirty bit', and 'more plot means less room for sex'."

A specimen of the ideal plot is given from a recent Nexus novel: "A naive peasant girl is plunged into danger and uncertainty when sold into slavery — and frequent bondage and chastisement. She discovers her true sexual nature and wins the love of the prince." "Adult" King Cophetua and the beggar-maid, in fact.

This new genre of Virgin sex for women flies in the face of previous received publishing wisdom, which was that women were more interested in relationships and love than manuals about the nuts and bolts below the navel. Dirty books were for inadequate men who had not grown up. In their famous judgment of 1972, two high court judges ruled that dirty old men were incapable of being

any further corrupted, and therefore as long as they made up the majority of regular customers, a bookseller was not breaking the law in selling dirty books to them. A women reading pornography used to be considered anomalous.

The Virgin guidelines deal with the different attitudes to sex of men and women. Authors are advised that in sexual matters, women are narcissistic: "While heterosexual men are not interested in sexual descriptions of their own gender, women are — we think — turned on by descriptions of women being turned on."

One woman's dirty book is another woman's literary masterpiece. "At last, an unprintable book that is readable," said Ezra Pound of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. It is one soundly based statistic in market research that women are greater readers than men of romantic fiction at all levels. If this new wave of dirty books for women takes off, they are going to find out that pornography is such a tiny territory that a single visit covers it completely. Repeated books, even when mixed with shopping, become very boring to read about.

Intelligent people find that imagination is far more potent than reading those violent little words

Intelligent readers, whatever their sex, discover — usually at puberty — that the imagination is far more potent than the violent little words used to describe the acts of love on lavatory walls and in banking books. A detailed account of what goes on in the back of the carriage would destroy the ageless spell cast by Emma Bovary. Great writers — from Catullus to Goethe, or Henry James to Colette and Alberto Moravia — can express a far thicker sexual atmosphere by indirections and omissions than all the nuts-and-bolts of dirty books which treat sex like an automobile service. Words are more erotic than pictures, because they exercise the imagination, where the important part of sex takes place.

Down the ages, some of the greatest works of literature have been deemed to be dirty books by those who think that the mechanics of the way they arrived in the world is dirty rather than miraculous. It is not compulsory to think of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as first-class literature, but from Ovid to Boccaccio to James Joyce, and from Shakespeare to *Clarissa* to Graham Greene, books have been banned for exploring one of the most important aspects of the human condition with style and wit and imagination.

Perhaps dirty books for women will attract a throbbing, pulsating crowd of would-be scribes and readers, thrusting into the steaming nether regions of the publishing industry, until with a gigantic, soul-searching, heart-stopping series of eruptions, the latest gimmick will be over. And the crowd will have a cigarette and move on to the next trick. But then I wouldn't bet on it.

Joanna Pitman doubts if Japan's martial spirit will be rekindled by letting its army go abroad

Profits from pacifism

Tiring of its villainous post-war image as the world's richest parasite, enjoying the fruits of peace while carefully burying its head at the hint of an international crisis, Japan enacted a momentous piece of legislation on Monday. For the first time since the second world war, this will allow the dispatch of troops overseas, to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The law, which was passed after almost two years of tortuous debate in the Diet (Japan's parliament), is a public relations victory for the country. Prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa has lost no time in issuing grand statements about Japan's new heavyweight status in global geopolitics, trumpeting that a philanthropic Tokyo will now play a leading role in international cooperation and the maintenance of world peace. Japan, he claims, has grown up and is ready to shoulder its share of the global burden alongside its rich partners, in working towards common humanitarian goals. Close scrutiny of the motives behind Japan's noble new stance, however, reveals the familiar mixture of foreign pressure and national economic interests.

The notion that the conqueror of economic markets the world over should pull its weight and participate in financially unrewarding UN peacekeeping operations was originally forced upon the nation's timid and parochial political fraternity during the Gulf war. This oil-importing country's tardy and apparently reluctant response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had triggered bitter criticism from the United States and its allies, all of which rank among Tokyo's most highly prized trading partners.

That bungle cost Japan dearly, as the coalition partners extracted a financial contribution of \$13 billion, more than the combined commitments of America, Britain and Germany. But the cost in international goodwill was probably greater. Japan's international businessmen, traditionally the eyes and ears of the government overseas, quickly and correctly interpreted the allies' disaffection as the harbinger of heightened economic friction.

Wary of its ballooning trade surpluses — which today top \$50 billion with America and \$30 billion with the EC — the government devised the peacekeeping operations initiative as a way both to mollify its critics and to avoid excessive expenditure during the next crisis.

Japan's Western allies may now be effectively placated, but the peacekeeping issue has opened old wounds closer to home. Memories of Japanese troops marauding through Asia during the 1930s and early 1940s are still uncomfortably fresh on the Asian continent. The prospect of a new deployment in the 1990s by Japan, the world's second biggest military spender, has provoked a chorus of opposition from forthright Asian governments.

Lee Kuan Yew, the leader of Singapore, where more than 40,000 were killed by Japanese troops during the war, says allowing the Japanese military to serve abroad again would be like giving liqueur chocolates to an alcoholic.

Singapore and its neighbours would far rather see more of Japan's economic troops, its bankers and businessmen, than a new wave of its battleships and bazookas, albeit friendly ones. Japan has every reason to nurture the goodwill of its Asian neighbours, to allow a continued expansion of its network of factories that already extends from Southern China to Indonesia.

Given that south-east Asia is forecast to have the world's highest economic growth rates for the next four decades and is already surpassing the United States as Japan's principal export market, Japan's interests must be closely linked to those of continental Asia.

So, cornered by demands from an irate America to legislate to permit overseas deployment of troops, Japan has devised a compromise to appease both its strategically important Asian partners and America. Spending 20 months in heated debate over the form of the bill, opposition politicians have managed to weave in so

many checks and balances that Japan's peacekeeping force has emerged innocuous, and with its role strictly circumscribed.

The force, which is limited to a maximum of 2,000 troops, will be unable to monitor ceasefire agreements, remove landmines or disarm warring factions unless the Diet first ends a freeze on deployments and approves sending troops to a region of conflict.

Judged on past performances in the Diet, approval could well require years of agonisingly slow debate, with plenty more opportunities for the socialist opposition to perform their "ox-walk", a peculiarly penultimate attempt to sabotage voting procedures by shuffling at a snail's pace towards the ballot box. Japan's celebrated new troops will be hard pressed to arrive before any war has been dealt with by other, more willing soldiers, and not a single drop of Japanese blood will be shed.

This, of course, is precisely what the Japanese had in mind as the cheapest and most domestically acceptable option if forced into adopting a conventional foreign policy. The next international alarm-call will show that Japan's grand claim to be a leading world peacemaker is a sham.

Capitalist society has annexed hippiedom, says Bryan Appleyard

I am indebted to *The Whole Person Catalogue* (Brainwave, £14.95) for the news that as the midsummer dawn breaks over Stonehenge on Sunday, New Age travellers will key themselves in to the natural rhythms, celebrate the festival of woman, the apogee of light, the turning of the great wheel of the seasons towards winter and the ancient certainty that everything flows, nothing is static. The catalogue does not mention that they might equally well indulge in the more recent tradition of a dust-up with the Wiltshire police. Or may well not turn up at all, in the conviction that the sacred site has been neutralised, transformed from druid temple and stone age telescope into "national heritage".

This sort of event — like last month's confrontation with the travellers at the Malvern Hills — always produces a good deal of dull anti-industrialist about rights, access and the inalienability or otherwise of common land and ancient monuments.

But these travellers are the shabby, unrespectable pit of a very large iceberg. For New Ageism, though it defies precise definition, is probably now the fastest growing faith in the West. Soon, it is estimated, 25 per cent of Americans will admit to some degree of New Ageism. Marketing — particularly in fields like cosmetics, beauty and health care — is riddled with it. All big bookshops now have New Age sections, with sub-categories like tarot, crystals, shamanism, reincarnation and so on. And, most bizarre of all, the New Age has been embraced by international capitalism.

Dr John Drane of Strirling University has studied the phenomenon and says that most multinational companies — he mentions BT, IBM and BP — have now adopted New Age manage-

ment training techniques. Typically, such techniques involve teaching employees how to get in touch with their "inner selves" and their "spiritual roots". This may lead to weird back-to-nature exercises, or to sitting under pyramids and tuning into the spiritual dynamics of crystals.

The use of such techniques began, predictably enough, in America. There Russell Ackoff, a management consultant, has decided that Christianity lies at the root of everything that is wrong with the capitalist enterprise, and that what managers need is a new conception of a "holistic god" if they really want to improve their bottom lines. All this is opposed by fundamentalist Christians, who have identified the movement as a demonic conspiracy. Since Drane has talked to American satanists who say that this is indeed the case, perhaps the fundamentalists have a point for once. Either way, it is clear that the New Age is right there in the boardrooms and the business schools. But what is it?

The New Age itself, says the catalogue, is "as profound and all-encompassing a movement as the European Renaissance of 500 years ago". In essence, it appears to be the belief that the scientific-materialistic-mechanistic era is coming to an end, and that humanity is "progressing into a time of greater spirituality and world harmony". Christianity and most other distinctive Western traditions are mistrusted because they are associated with the materialist waste land into which we are said to have strayed. Anything from the Orient is automatically included.

Most people have some sympathy with some of this. Environmentalists are New Ageists — including the last Archbishop of Canterbury, have spoken of the spiritual power of the idea. Rich, liberal societies certainly have a problem, and solving it may be the most important task we face. But to imagine that a

solution can be found in this carnival of psychobabble and dim-witted meandering is madness.

The message to be gleaned from this catalogue and from other New Age literature has nothing to do with spirituality and harmony, and everything to do with the most egregious narcissism. Every technique, every therapy, every growth counselling session encourages the belief that the only way forward is to pamper, analyse and neurotically fixate upon ourselves. Spirituality seems to these people to be no more than a morbid fascination with one's private feelings at the expense of all else.

Confronted with this, Christians may well be alarmed. For far from being a benign and companionable form of spirituality, much New Age thinking is an explicit assault on the self-denying heart of Western religion.

Whether everybody should be alarmed is another matter. New Ageism may well fade like any other cult. But its strength lies in its flabby plurality, the way it

unquestioningly embraces every idea, however crazy, and then flaunts it as the symptom of the dawning of a new era. This explains why it has survived the 1960s and has been able to expand its empire into otherwise respectable areas. By saying nothing clearly, it becomes all things to all men. By making no demands, it wins easy converts — hippie values, says one sceptic, for a yuppie lifestyle.

This probably does little harm to the average dabbbling adolescent, but one cannot help worrying about all those managers, hotshot business consultants and civil servants. Coercing employees to work harder is one thing; coercing them to explore their inner selves and to sit under pyramids or read the *I Ching* is quite another. Anybody offered such stuff at work should laugh and resist, explaining perhaps that they have a shamanistic sweat lodge meeting that very night, and that one should never exceed the stated dose.

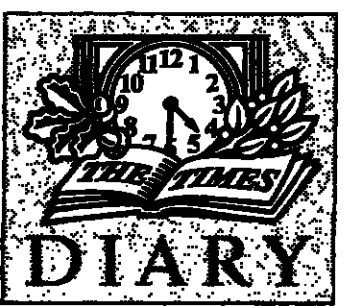
That man again

HAVING relinquished the chance of a role on the European political stage, Neil Kinnock is turning his attention to planning a new career as a broadcaster. He is understood to have received an informal approach from the BBC about the possibility of a series of programmes when he stands down as Leader of the Opposition next month. It is said the programmes would have little to do with politics.

Since the election, Kinnock has discovered that there is more to life than the NEC and shadow cabinet meetings, and has been seen more and more often at the theatre and cinema. Even before he withdrew his nomination for the presidency of the Confederation of European Socialist Parties this week, he had told friends he would like a role in the media, sections of which he bitterly attacked after his second election defeat. The BBC refuses to comment on the discussions, which, according to other sources, are still at the preliminary stage.

Some of those who may in future find themselves colleagues of Kinnock were yesterday astonished at the prospect. Gloria Hunniford said: "Neil Kinnock can stand in on my Radio 2 show any day. He is never short of a word, and as he is a Welshman I know he loves the sort of music we play."

Judith Chalmers, who hosts the ITV holiday programme *Wish You Were Here*, was intrigued by the idea, and thought she might also be able to put some work the way of the Labour leader. "Neil Kinnock has got the gift of the gab, although I wonder if he can control it. Jeffrey Archer presented an item for me from Cambridgeshire. Perhaps Neil Kin-



nock could do one from the Welsh valleys. Yes, I think we could definitely use him. As long as it was only once. But I think he would make a smashing host for *Songs of Praise*."

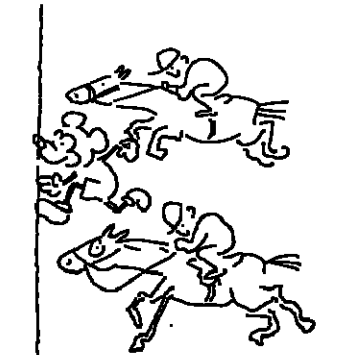
● Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's EC commissioner, was voting with his stomach this week. On Monday he was to be seen eating herrings at the Nordica restaurant in Brussels. And what is Nordica? Why, the only Danish restaurant in town, of course.

Ici on parle français

WHILE reports persist that the cabinet remains divided over Maastricht, Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, is spending her every spare moment becoming a better European. Shepherd, who studied languages at Oxford, is brushing up her French with a private tutor in London. "She is extremely good at French anyway," confirms Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, Shepherd's special adviser. "She is so fluent on the phone that I find my accent is improving by association."

Shepherd faces her toughest linguistic test in Luxembourg later this month, when she is due to hold private talks with the French labour minister, Marlene Aubry — better known as the daughter of the beleaguered Jacques Delors.

● The English season, which yesterday reached one of its high points with the start of Royal Ascot, is not what it was. As a classless alternative, that paragon of good taste the Ritz in London's Piccadilly has started offering its American guests free trips to Euro-Disney. Couples booking a four-night stay will be given complimentary flights and admission, plus a fast-food lunch. But the



offer applies only if the trip coincides with the rival English attractions of Ascot, Wimbledon, Henley or Goodwood. "We believe our transatlantic guests will appreciate a day off from all that dressing up and living it up," says Brian Mills of Cunard Hotels. "They may care to whomp it up instead." Surely they could stay home for that?

Hanging too good?

ALTHOUGH now known to have been one of the crooks of the century, Robert Maxwell is still commemorated by a photograph on one of Westminster's best-known walls. The picture of a beaming Maxwell, flanked by Jeremy Thorpe and Sir Edward Heath

uncharacteristically clutching a pint, still has pride of place in Annie's Bar, a favourite haunt of, among others, Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor.

The photograph has hung in the bar since 1968, but MPs are now calling for it to be removed as "inappropriate".

Despite the presence of the two party leaders, the features of backbencher Maxwell — then chairman of the Commons catering committee — naturally dominate the picture. Heath, who has not set foot in the bar for many years, said yesterday: "I don't remember it at all. I did not know it was there."

Even though it is the only picture of the former prime minister hanging in Westminster, Heath has no hesitation in saying it is time it was removed. "It would be a jolly good thing if they take it down. Preferably today."

Colin Shepherd, the Tory MP who now chairs the Commons catering committee, was also unaware of its presence. "Obviously I will consider any requests to remove it," he says. "But as it is in a bar where both MPs and the press drink, perhaps it is appropriate it should remain. We could add a few others and turn it into a rogues gallery."

● Just as policemen get younger, what counts as archaeology grows ever more recent. In the week of the 25th anniversary of Sgt Pepper, the York Archaeological Trust has opened an exhibition entitled *The Beatles: The Tangible Evidence*. Did the Fab Four ever really exist, or were they figments of our psychedelic imaginations? Among the archaeological proof on display are what are alleged to be the toenail clippings of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, from their televised "bed-in" at the Amsterdam Hilton in 1971.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

If we accept Samuel Johnson's criterion that metaphysical poetry consists of heterogeneous ideas yoked by violence together, then we should place the laurel on the men from Ulverscroft Road. To them, things are easier said than Donne. We may not mind, be able to place that laurel. It may be stuck to our fingers. Even if it is not stuck to our fingers, it may end up stuck to the brows of the men from Ulverscroft Road. Should that happen, however, they will not panic. They will not attempt to pull the skin apart. They will use their Skin Release Agent, following instructions carefully. They may also flush with lots of cold water and seek medical advice.

I know this is what they will do, because that is what their packaging advises us to do, even if we may not have as much Skin Release Agent around as they have at Ulverscroft Road. For that is where they make not only Skin Release Agent, but also the Bostik Superglue which, under certain circumstances (say 89 per cent), creates the situation for which Skin Release Agent was put on this earth.

But the packaging literature does not stop there, since although the tube of Superglue itself is tiny, its packaging is huge, crammed with fine print describing all the fine things which Bostik is up to. There is, for example, a Seal Appeal on it, which explains that Bostik is helping the RSPCA raise funds for a seal hospital, and you do not have to be a metaphysician

to spot a hidden agenda there, you have only to be a sceptic who has frequently glued his fingers to teapot and chair-leg and is thus in a position to suss out why Seal Appeal should be a slogan that commended itself to Bostik's PR department. Not that the risk of semantic backfire has been entirely avoided: at first glance, it struck me that a seal hospital might be a place people went who had inadvertently sealed themselves to things and been forced to seek medical advice. Even at second glance, when I noticed the RSPCA involvement, I couldn't be sure that a seal hospital wasn't somewhere seals were taken after they had got glued to things, as the result of open Bostik tubes having been incautiously jetsammed upon our horrible beaches.

These, though, are not the paradoxes I meant, they are just those serendipitous by-blows foregather. If you seek a true example of heterogeneous ideas yoked by violence (and who better to handle such gumming challenges than Bostik?), try this: start by breaking a teacup, and you could end by breaking 147.

Enter, to me, Stephen Hendry. I am standing by the Sunday sink, having successfully Bostik a teacup-handle to my thumb, and I am flushing the assembly with lots of cold water, when the eye that has followed these packaging instructions is caught by the smiling face of the great snookerist. I read on, to

discover that if I collect three stars from Bostik products and send them to Ulverscroft Road, I will receive a £1 cheque signed, for some reason, by Stephen. Better yet, I will also qualify to enter a contest in which, if I list the ten qualities required by a World Snooker Champion and complete the sentence "I would like to win £100,000 with Bostik because...", that is what I shall win.

But I do not want to win. Apart from the fact that I do not trust a Bostik cheque to detach itself from my fingers, worse, I could wind up permanently attached to the bank counter at which I attempted to present it, what I want is to be one of the ten runners-up. I want this because their prize is a luxury weekend for two at Armanthwaite Hall, leisure lodge of Lakeland, where the highlight will be snooker lessons from Stephen.

Imagine A weekend with nine other couples whose only common bond is their use of Superglue. Possibly literally: a man glued to his wife, perhaps, another, even better, to his mistress, but even if not, what harrowing tales we shall all have to tell of the day we shaved the dog to get our hand back, or the night we spent attached to the garage door!

Did this occur to them, at Ulverscroft Road? Of course not, for they are poets, preoccupied only with yoking heterogeneous ideas together.

They do not know about what we know about: yoking apart.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 1992

ELISIN'S

HIGHLY C

TOO TALEN



YELTSIN'S FREE MARKET

President Yeltsin could have given no surer sign of his commitment to free market reform than his appointment of Yegor Gaidar as acting prime minister. Defying the growing pressure from conservatives and worried industrial bosses to slow down the breakneck pace of Mr Gaidar's reform programme, the Russian leader reassured the West on the eve of his Washington summit that he has neither lost his nerve nor retreated to old-style centralist planning.

To reinforce the message, Mr Yeltsin issued six decrees outlining the second stage of the reform programme, to come into effect by July 1, the date on which Russia has bravely decided to float the rouble on the open market. The decrees give more rights to private companies, improve the collection of state revenue, and threaten enforced bankruptcy sanctions for inefficient state enterprises which are unable to survive on their own or pay their debts within three months.

All this will be warmly welcomed by Western governments and by the International Monetary Fund. But that does not mean Mr Yeltsin's talks in Washington on economic aid will be smooth or that the IMF will find him an easy negotiating partner. He has repeatedly said that Russia will not bow to the prescriptions of the IMF. His government has dragged its feet on the liberalisation of energy prices, and a strong heavy industry lobby is now accusing the Gaidar team of selling out to the West.

Unlike Third World leaders who use the pretext of IMF guidelines to carry out unpopular austerity measures, Mr Yeltsin cannot argue that he is being forced by world pressure to introduce his reforms. That would only give more ammunition to the nationalists who argue that Moscow should return to autarkic defiance of the West.

Mr Yeltsin is negotiating from a position of weakness. He needs agreement on a \$4 billion loan by next month if his ambitious targets are to be met, and has to secure endorsement by the IMF of a package that

would enable Russia to use a promised \$6 billion stabilisation to peg the rouble on the foreign exchange markets. The IMF is holding out for tough conditions — on the use of its money for reserves, on Russia's responsibility for the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, and on monetary co-operation with the other republics now proposing to introduce their own currencies.

Unless his talks in Washington go well, he will find a sour atmosphere in Munich next month when he has talks with all the G7 industrialised nations. Neither in Washington nor in Munich can Mr Yeltsin afford the impression that he is a suppliant, cap in hand. That widespread perception of Mr Gorbachev last year further undermined his support at home.

The IMF cannot simply impose the same conditions it normally lays down for Third World countries. Rescuing the Russian economy is a *sui generis* operation, by far the biggest the world body has ever undertaken. The normal criteria are still valid: tight money, the abolition of subsidies, an end to monopolies, a reduction of budget deficits, privatisation and liberalisation of markets. The Gaidar government is indeed trying to achieve all this, and Mr Yeltsin may privately be as eager as anyone to press ahead. But he knows the political constraints on him, and is ever aware of the social cataclysm that drastic reform threatens to unleash.

The IMF in turn must beware of over-extending itself in Russia. So huge are the sums needed that the organisation could find itself left without enough funds for other parts of the world. The West has at last committed itself, after a year of dithering which matched the vacillation of promised but unfulfilled reform under Mr Gorbachev. Now the two sides are arguing about figures and terms of engagement. The argument will continue in Munich. In the end, however, Russia has to save itself. With Mr Gaidar and his team confirmed at the helm, it has a chance.

HIGHLY CHARGED PROFITS

One of the great complaints levelled at nationalised industries is that their business decisions are liable to be swayed by political considerations. After privatisation, has the political ghost been laid? Alas, past political pressures continue to haunt privatised companies, as witnessed by the recent results of the electricity distributors.

Yesterday Norweb announced a near-doubling of its profits, from £70 million to £138 million, in the middle of the worst recession since the 1930s. The previous day, East Midlands Electricity reported a 41 per cent increase. More will follow, and public and political indignation will mount. Some will be manufactured. But much will be deserved, since the profit rises are due at least partly to the government's desire, in December 1990, to have a successful stock market flotation when a general election might have been imminent. Electricity consumers are still paying the price.

The electricity companies, both generators and distributors, were bound to be able to make huge profit increases in their first few years. In the public sector, all had been grossly overmanned and throttled by restrictive practices. It is relatively easy to save money in the first few years after privatisation simply by pruning unnecessary staff. National Power, for instance, used to employ 170,000 people at the beginning of 1990. By next March it expects to be able to generate the same amount of electricity with fewer than 9,000 on its payroll.

In a normal private-sector company in a competitive market, the profit generated from such cost savings would be passed on to both shareholders and customers. Competition would ensure that shareholders would not be able to pocket the lot, since rivals would cut prices and therefore win business from any company not prepared to pass on savings. In the case of monopolies such as electricity distributors, it is the job of the regulator — in this case, Stephen

Littlechild of Ofwat — to impose the discipline that competition would have enforced.

Yet the price of electricity to domestic consumers rose this year by only a couple of points less than the inflation rate. Shareholders are taking a disproportionate share of the windfall. Electricity companies do not have the excuse of the water companies, which can at least argue that huge investment has to be made to improve water quality. Electricity is electricity. The distributors' capital spending needs are negligible. Why then cannot Ofwat insist that customers are better served?

The answer is that Professor Littlechild has been saddled with a regulatory structure that gives him too little power. It was this that made the distribution companies very attractive to shareholders and ensured that the stock market flotation was many times oversubscribed. The government cannot now go back on its word to shareholders and intervene, say, through a special levy. Professor Littlechild, meanwhile, does not plan to review the price structure until 1994. Even then, the new price caps have to be agreed with the industry.

But if Professor Littlechild lacks the legal powers to enforce sensible charges on the electricity companies, he can at least use moral suasion. His counterpart at Ofwat, Ian Byatt, managed to persuade the water companies last year to cut their prices by more than the formula decreed. Otherwise, members of the public, electricity consumers all, may reflect that they are being made to suffer for a political mistake, just as billions of pounds of their money was used to mitigate the disastrous effects of the poll tax.

By the turn of the century, domestic consumers will have a choice of electricity suppliers, and this should produce fairer prices. But in the meantime, Professor Littlechild must embark rapidly on his review. He needs power enough to make the sparks fly.

TOO TALENTED TO RETIRE

Neil Kinnock reacted with typical resilience to what appears to have been his somewhat churlish treatment at the hand of the *Confederation of European Socialist Parties*. He gracefully withdrew his nomination for the presidency of that body when it seemed likely to run into difficulty. One consequence is that his fellow social democratic leaders in the European Community are left with the formidable task of finding someone of similar distinction to fill an influential, if hardly a powerful, position.

But his disappointment, however bravely carried off, also leaves Mr Kinnock with a predicament. At the age of 50 he will, in a month's time, become the youngest ex-leader of a major party since Lord Rosebery nearly a century ago. If not in a full and active political life in the House of Commons, how is he to spend the next 15 or 20 years?

Mr Kinnock is not the first frontline politician to confront this dilemma, though his predecessors have tended to be more fortunate. Arthur James Balfour survived at the top of politics, holding three successive cabinet posts after he was forced to resign from the Tory leadership in 1911. In more recent times, Sir Alec Douglas-Home also enjoyed an Indian summer as foreign secretary after losing first the prime ministership and then the Opposition leadership. Such precedents, though, depend on the success of a party in swiftly returning to office. They can offer little immediate comfort to Mr Kinnock. With the awful warning of the local years of Sir Edward Heath before his eyes, he must hope to be able to find some public stage more dignified than that of a television chat show.

The rewards of returning to the Labour party's national executive as an elected member for the constituency section hardly promise to be long-lasting. Mr Kinnock was never pre-eminently a Commons politician, even in his heyday. What he needs is some new arena in which to put both his abilities and experience to good use. Fortunately at least one such forum (and one in which Mr Kinnock has already shown an indirect interest) does exist.

Britain has a thoroughly depressing record in the quality and eminence of the individuals it has traditionally sent to the European Parliament. Until now only Barbara Castle, as a leading member of the Labour party, has carried a torch for the kind of British socialism that sees its future as operating across national boundaries — and this, despite continental socialist parties having specialised in sending to Strasbourg some of their most distinguished figures. That could all now be changed by the power of one man's example.

Having knocked gingerly at the back door in Brussels, Mr Kinnock could do a great deal worse than to think seriously about marching boldly up to the front door in Strasbourg. True, the next European elections are not due until 1994 and the Labour party will be hard put to defend the big gains it made in Mrs Thatcher's ill-fated anti-Brussels campaign of 1989. That is all the more reason for Mr Kinnock to make up his mind now to lend the contest a much greater significance and interest than it would otherwise have. He is too engaging and able a politician simply to linger in the Westminster Greenroom once the show is over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hooligans as part of English culture

From Dr John Rae

Sir, Before others rush in with solutions to the problem of English hooliganism, may I suggest that we ask ourselves a more fundamental question. Are the hooligans in Malmö (report, June 15) really an unrepresentative minority, or is their behaviour as much part of English culture as Trooping the Colour and cricket on the village green?

It suits us to characterise them as a minority who do not reflect the true values of our society. I recall that as a headmaster, I used the same argument. Pupils who vandalised the changing room at another school could not possibly be typical; they had to be described as an unrepresentative minority who had let the school down.

Yet any headmaster knows, unless he is given to self-deception, that hooligan pupils are not a discrete group; their behaviour reflects something in the culture of the school.

There may be a case for removing passports of known troublemakers and for banning alcohol, but we should not fool ourselves that we are dealing with the underlying cause. Alcohol is a convenient scapegoat, but an unconvincing one. It does not cause the football fans of other countries to run amok.

Could it be that there is something in the English, not in the alcohol, that results in violent aggression?

We also find it convenient to see hooliganism as a working-class phenomenon, forgetting that undergraduates at the more fashionable universities have often behaved in a similar manner.

Fathers pass on to their sons stories of how they charged the gates of a ladies college or destroyed a café on the university's rugby tour of France. The torch of middle-class hooliganism was passed from one generation to another.

None of which means that we should condone what happened in Malmö or fail to take steps to prevent it happening again. But perhaps it is time we asked ourselves what it is in our culture that makes the English potentially such a bellicose and anarchic people.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE,
Director,
The Portman Group,
22 Wimpole Street, W1,
June 15.

Sistine restoration

From Mr J. A. Fidler and Mr Jan Kevill

Sir, Mr Daley of Artwatch International (letter, June 5) should be as accurate in his choice of phraseology as he desires conservators to be in their cleaning and preservation of works of art. Otherwise he is in danger of maligning perfectly viable conservation materials and techniques when it is their misapplication that causes controversy and catastrophe.

We believe your readers deserve clearer information on the solvent AB57, which is not, in our view, a "controversial cleaning agent". The material was developed at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome and pioneered by the eminent conservators, Paolo and Laura Mora. Its constituent parts can be mixed in various proportions or omitted altogether with a range of consequences for its efficacy dependent on substrate, soiling and surface chemistry.

Its qualities are dependent on local climatic conditions, its composition as applied and the "dwell time" on the subject material being cleaned. The suitability of one AB57 recipe over another is a matter for professional judgment and skill based on these factors and on the sensitivity of the artefact being conserved. The material itself is innocent.

Yours etc.,
J. A. FIDLER
(Head of architectural conservation),
JAN KEVILL
(Head of painting conservation),
English Heritage,
Keystone House,
429 Oxford Street, W1,
June 12.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, The forthright and unequivocal manner in which the three judges gave their reasons for allowing the Judith Ward appeal (report, June 5) together with the glacial policy of the new Lord Chief Justice, are the most hopeful signs yet that the judiciary have at last recognised and come to terms with the corruption that has disfigured so many of our criminal trials.

The stables however are only partially cleansed. If, say, only 1 per cent of all current convictions were false, this would mean that some 400 people are still in prison who ought not to be there. The National Association of Probation Officers thinks the figure could be as high as 700; and from the letters I have received in recent years I would not want to challenge it.

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is not due to report until next year. Meanwhile the time has surely come for the home secretary to **Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.**

Maastricht: a treaty intact, in tatters, or still in play?

From Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for Kent East (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, For much of the British press and many politicians too, matters associated with the EC — the Commission, Jacques Delors, "federalism", other member states and so on — have provided a huge range of convenient Aunt Sallys that can be impugned without risk of response. Criticism has often been overstated, facts have been distorted, and above all positive aspects and successes have been ignored. Very recently by Michael Dynes (Life & Times, June 9) gave some examples.

Is it surprising, then, in an atmosphere in which the Commission and its president are derided so freely and in such an unbalanced way, that when the time comes to adjust the treaties there is an atmosphere of suspicion?

Maastricht will not be the last change to the EC constitution, and the Danish reaction — albeit now regretted by many in Denmark itself — shows that governments all over the EC have a harder road to follow in future.

John Major's judgment is that it is in Britain's long-term interests to be "at the centre of Europe" and to bring the Maastricht treaty into effect. I know of no Conservative MEP who does not fully support that judgment.

However, governments, including our own, can no longer afford to sit back and allow the EC institutions to be the unprotected butt of half truth or unbalanced comment. If so, they put at risk the basis of confidence on which they depend when, as with the Maastricht treaty, a complex negotiation comes to be approved.

To avoid this most serious danger governments will have to take active steps to ensure their citizens enjoy a more balanced appreciation of the EC, even to the extent of defending the EC institutions in which we share.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
8 Wellmead Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Sir Guy Millard

Sir, Sir Nicholas Henderson's five points (letter, June 12) do not amount to much more than saying that Maastricht must be a good thing because it carried the Treaty of Rome a stage further.

Some 35 years ago, when I worked on this subject in a minor capacity under the late Reginald Maudling, the Foreign Office were saying that we could never join the European Community. They were told so by the

Treasury and the Board of Trade, and they believed it. The alternative was supposed to be the European Free Trade Area. I was one of the very few who disagreed. Now they seem to be born-again federalists.

There is no particular merit in the fact that Maastricht does not speak of federalism. No one knows what that word means, but if it means what we think it does, who wanted it anyway?

As for security and foreign policy, Nato is enough for our security. Let us keep it, in the face of attempts to undermine it. A common foreign policy is a formula for paralysis, as we saw in the Gulf and Yugoslavia.

There is advantage, as Sir Nicholas says, in the fact that Maastricht provides for procedures to ensure that those who fail to observe their obligations are penalised. But do we need a treaty to ensure what should have been from the start a basic principle of the Community?

The inherent danger in an "ever closer union" is that it will be an artificial creation which will be torn apart by nationalism. It is better to halt the process at the point where consent is still freely and even enthusiastically given.

Yours faithfully,
GUY MILLARD,
Fyfield Manor,
Southrop, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, On June 9, in the midst of ferment in the Commons over Maastricht, the House of Lords published a timely and dispassionate report (HL Paper 5) which deserves wide attention as the Lisbon summit discussions on EC enlargement approach.

The report suggests that applicant countries should be able to associate with EC foreign policy (para 172) and it concludes that "the States which have emerged from decades of Soviet military domination and communist oppression are looking to the Community as an anchor for their fragile democracy, security and independence and as a source of strength for their crippled economies" (para 144).

These remarks echo a letter you published from almost all Conservative MEPs on November 17, 1989, within days of the fall of the Berlin Wall, when we called for an EC framework strong enough, deep and flexible enough, to embrace such countries as does the Maastricht treaty. Article O of the treaty implies full membership of the Union, but allows for "adjustment" according to circumstances.

As the House of Lords report points out, alternative forums for

foreign and security discussions such as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) or the Council of Europe are "soft" organisations, whereas the EC is a "hard" organisation. It is so notably because of its decision-making procedures.

Austria and Sweden, both "neutrals", have been shadowing the EC's existing foreign policy co-operation. This transitional process should be widened to other countries — and deepened by their formal involvement in the common foreign and security policy (CFSP).

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD McMILLAN-SCOTT,
Parliamentary Office,
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard, Brussels 1040.

From Mr Robert Walter

Sir, Maastricht was not a "good deal" in the interests of Conservative party unity. It was a "good deal" because it would lead to the kind of Europe that is in the interests of the British people.

What those who are both for and against European integration must now ask themselves, is whether the regulations that emanate from Brussels with the approval of the Council of Ministers and are enacted into national law would not be the same if the process were "inter-governmental" or purely domestic.

That some of us object to regulations that we have chosen to harmonise at European level does not negate the concept of European unity. Maybe there is simply too much petty government at every level, and Europe and Jacques Delors are easy scapegoats.

I remain, Sir,
ROBERT WALTER
(Deputy Chairman),
Conservative Group for Europe,
110 Grosvenor Road, SW1.

Delors appointment

From the Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Sir, Your editorial today states that the Foreign Office "did a deal with the Germans" last year about extending Mr Delors' term of office. There is no substance in this whatsoever.

No decision has yet been taken about the next Commission president. And when the Foreign Office does do deals, it is never for something as intangible as a commitment "to return the favour in due course".

Yours faithfully,
TRISTAN GAREL-JONES,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
London SW1A 2AH,
June 16.

Grave goods

From Mr Frank Dunn

Sir, What would I take with me to my grave (letters, June 5, 11, 12, 13)? My diaries, dating from 1935, so that friends and relatives would be spared the embarrassment of reading what I have said about them, while I could employ eternity in indexing and annotating these intriguing volumes.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK DUNN,
Rose Cottage, Hix Wood,
Charbury, Oxford.

From Mr Norris K. Haugh

Sir, I would take my bagpipes. Even the Almighty himself could find his patience so serenely tried thereby that he might return me to Earth, with a promise of eternal life thereon.

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS K. HAUGH,
4 Burdon Avenue,
West Wimbledon, SW20.

From Miss Mary Cosh

Sir, Let me take my work, for heaven's sake. Assuming I ever did make it to those hallowed climes, one thing at least we have been assured of there is endless time.

Yours faithfully,
MARY COSH,
10 Albion Mews,
Thornhill Road, N1.

From Mr Pat Date

Sir, For me, a bicycle, assuming that there will be miles of smooth roads, always gently downhill, always a light following breeze, no traffic and no punctures. Fortunately I have a folding bicycle.

Yours faithfully,
PAT DATE,
Byways, Church Lane,
Sawston, Cambridge.

From Canon T. L. F. Mander

Sir, Your correspondents would be better advised to take with them their Baptism certificates.

Yours sincerely,
T. L. F. MANDER,
St John Baptist Vicarage,
Tachbrook Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

From Mrs Alison Musker

Sir, I'd love to take my paintbox to try to capture the fiery hot reds, or alternatively, all those heavenly colours.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MUSKER,
South Orchards, Hurst,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mrs Harley Nott

Sir, Two decks of playing cards just in case there is bridge after life.

Yours faithfully,
MEENA NOTT,
17 Upper Tooting Park, SW7.

Business letters, page 23

Forthcoming marriages

Mr & Mrs Allen and Mrs. M. A. Allen. The engagement is announced between Mr. Allen and Mrs. M. A. Allen. Mr. Allen is of the firm of Allen & Allen, 10, St. James's Place, London, W.1. Mrs. Allen is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Allen, of the firm of Allen & Allen, 10, St. James's Place, London, W.1.

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Marriage

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OBITUARIES

VÉRA RUSSELL

Vera Russell, actress, gallery director, war correspondent and eminence grise of the London cultural world, died in London on June 15 aged 80. She was born Vera Poliakoff in St Petersburg on November 27, 1911.

VÉRA Russell liked people to remember the accent — and Russian stress — on the first syllable of her given name. She was one of those extraordinary figures who seem to have been everywhere, known everywhere and left an indelible mark on all with whom they came into contact. Sometimes the mark was an abrasion to the spirit or to the self-esteem, but it was pointless to enquire whether the victim was a friend or an enemy. Almost everyone who was anyone in the world of the arts had been both, often simultaneously. She prided herself, correctly, on her high and incorruptible standards. And heaven help anyone who transgressed them.

It was usually difficult to say precisely what Vera Russell did. She was always most at home in the role of eminence grise, only rarely stepping from the background into the limelight. During the Thirties she was an actress, under the name of first, Vera Poliakoff and then Vera Lindsay. Those who saw her on stage suggest that she was not much good, but looked so sensational that nobody cared. The only film in which she played a leading role, a pre-feminist *Spunk* of 1940, tends to bear out such a judgement.

In the Seventies she ran an art gallery, the Artists' Market, which made something of an initial splash but lasted relatively briefly. Subsequently from time to time she curated exhibitions devoted to the work of old friends, including Matthew Smith and Henry Moore. But on the whole her influence was exerted behind the scenes.

She was, though, still considerably larger than life. "Well, of course, my darling I am Russian," she would proffer in explanation of any excess. And indeed in a way she was. She was born in St Petersburg into a rich Jewish convert family and would give dramatic accounts of her escape from the Revolution through ice and snow in 1917. This was about as far as her long-projected autobiography ever got. From 1918 she lived in London. Her father, already proficient in English, rapidly became a much-respected political commentator for *The Times*. Though the Poliakoffs' vast resources in Russia, mainly from railway building and finance, were left behind, they continued to live the comfortable life of the haute bourgeoisie.

She was educated at Kensington High School and rapidly fell in love with the idea of the theatre. She applied for entry to RADA in defiance of her parents who, after canvassing advice from family friends as disparate as the art patron Count Harry Kessler and the American impresario Gilbert Miller, decided to let her follow her bent.



Vera Russell as seen by David Hockney in a sketch of 1978 and, right, as the rising actress Miss Vera Poliakoff, photographed by Dorothy Wilding in 1931

She was contracted for her first touring company at the age of 16. Shortly after this she went to her first ball and met the young millionaire Basil Burton, widely held to be the most handsome man in London. Returned from tour she got engaged to him and they had one of the weddings of the year in October 1930. Burton was an idealistic communist who encouraged meetings of the London party cells at his house and contributed generously to the cause. After giving birth to a son Vera, sublimely uninterested in politics, went back to the stage.

In 1934 she met Michel Saint-Denis, then in Britain with his famous production of André Obey's *Noah*, and immediately fell under his spell. By the end of the year she had left her husband to live and work with Saint-Denis, both in France with his *Compagnie des Quinze* and later in England with the London Theatre Studio. At the outbreak of war in 1939 Vera, still Lindsay, was working with Alec Guinness and George Devine in the idealistic, newly set-up Actors Company, which instantly fell victim to the compulsory darkness of all theatres. Saint-Denis was called up and returned to France and Vera joined the news division of BBC Radio where she stayed for seven years working as a documentary producer and war reporter — in which latter capacity she was present at the liberation of Paris, typically taking time out to be painted by Picasso.

In 1944 she had met Gerald Barry, editor of the *New Chronicle*, and eventually divorced Basil Burton in order to marry him. The great achievement of these years was the

Festival of Britain, masterminded by Gerald Barry with Vera always insisted, substantial behind-the-scenes participation from herself.

By the time the festival had run its course the marriage, which had already produced Vera's second child, was on the rocks and the couple separated without getting divorced. The divorce, which it finally occurred in 1958, was very acrimonious.

During the marriage to Gerald Barry Vera had begun to write seriously about art. She had always been interested in art and involved with artists, numbering Matthew Smith among her old friends and Mark Tobey and Francis Bacon among the newer. She and Bacon were very close until they quarrelled: he did not live up to her standards for other people's behaviour over the death of his friend George Dyer. A serious accident Vera had to her leg was supposedly the inspiration for a group of paintings Bacon did involving a bloodied, bandaged leg. In 1952 she met the art critic John Russell. They lived together for six years, marrying after her divorce from Gerald Barry became final.

These were the years of Vera's most visible connections with the world of art. She wrote, worked as a producer in radio and the theatre — including in 1952 a famous Dylan Thomas tribute programme and in 1965 the T. S. Eliot Memorial Show which included Grocco Marx reciting Old Possum. She also made many new friends, including David Hockney, whose talents she recognised in his first year at the Royal College and continued to encourage throughout her active life in art. In the 1960s she was offered a job



by the great Basle art dealer Ernst Beyeler, working on catalogues and exhibitions, and commuted between Basle and London for several years before, in 1970, making her first attempt to run a commercial gallery with and for the artists she approved of — the Artists' Market, in a Covent Garden warehouse. During its preliminary pilot scheme the idea proved unexpectedly viable commercially and this was followed by several attempts to put it on a more permanent basis. At about this time she became estranged from John Russell and continued intermittently to work for Beyeler, until finally in 1976 the permanent basis was achieved. The gallery showed a wide variety of artists with distinction, despite the inevitable squabbles with the Arts Council over funding. It was finally forced to close in February 1979, concluding with a flourish of David Hockney's *Portrait of an Artist* show mounted entirely at his expense as a gesture of friendship.

Subsequently Vera Russell, as she by now definitely was, though divorced from John Russell for several years, seemed sometimes like a dragon of energy with too few battlements to defend. She occasionally seemed to put on exhibitions of her loved ones: her Matthew Smith show at the Barbican was really the first time that formidably awkward space had been shown off to advantage. She toyed with writing an

autobiography, a children's book and a book about Russia — a subject on which she became more plunkingly expert the further away it receded into her memory.

Nothing came of any of these plans. She tried to extend her career as a bringer-together of artists and writers into illustrated books, following her successes with the Moore-Auden *Stonehenge* and the Jasper John-Samuel Beckett *Fizzles* in the early Seventies. That, too, led to no palpable result.

In her last years she frequently resembled Alexander Woolcott's famous description of Mrs Patrick Campbell as a sinking ship firing enthusiastically on all rescuers. But she could still be a wonderfully loyal friend for those ready to be amused rather than cut to the quick by her deriding castigation. There was no denying, either, that she had an extraordinary eye for art and impeccable taste. Possibly she never achieved as much as she might have done. But given her fascination with conspiracy she would probably be happier to be remembered as the great unknown factor without whose subterranean workings the face of British culture would surely have been radically different.

She is survived by her last husband, John Russell, her two sons, Richard Burton, the architect, and Stephen Barry, the theatrical director.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Glyn Jones

I STAYED with Sir Glyn Jones (obituary, June 12) and his wife, Nancy, several times a year between 1961 and 1966 and I was therefore able to witness his brilliant achievements while he was governor of Nyasaland and later as governor general of Malawi. He had a genuine working relationship with Dr Banda who trusted and respected him. Until 1961, while the Central African Federation was still in existence, I frequently went to Salisbury in what was then Southern Rhodesia. On more than one occasion Sir Roy Welensky, the federal prime minister, told me that Sir Glyn Jones and Dr Banda were communists and I replied that Dr Banda was an eighteenth century Tory. Shortly after independence about half the members of Dr Banda's cabinet resigned and Sir Glyn played a most constructive role in persuading Dr Banda to remain prime minister and bring new blood into his cabinet. Even as late as 1966 I don't think that any of us realised how dictatorial Dr Banda would prove to be. I visited Malawi several times in the 1970s and my most recent visit was in 1982. I made my maiden speech in March 1960 advocating Dr Banda's release from jail. In January of that year, I stayed with Sir Robert Armitage, the then governor. I worked very closely with Iain Macleod, during his period as Colonial Secretary, from 1959 to 1961. I urged him to replace Sir Robert Armitage since I considered that he did not have the political foresight to see that Nyasaland must come out of the Central African Federation and, ultimately, become independent. I was among those who advised him to appoint Sir Glyn Jones as governor of Nyasaland which he became in 1961. While I believe that Dr Banda should allow political freedom, I can say that Sir Glyn was correct in deciding that he was the only person who could lead an independent Malawi. I last saw Dr Banda in London in 1986 and I expressed the hope that

political freedom would be restored to Malawi. Unhappily, it never has been. Humphry Berkeley

I WAS very sad to read today of the death of that truly excellent man, my old friend and colleague, "Jonas" Jones. Almost exactly nine years ago, on June 3, 1983, he and I and three others sat down to lunch together. We had all of us held the appointment of secretary for native affairs in Northern Rhodesia. Although the job and its responsibilities remained unaltered, the title was later changed to minister of native affairs and chief commissioner, to describe better the work involved. The five of us having lunch together, in the order in which we held the appointment, were Ronald Bush, Bill Stubbs, myself, Glyn Jones and "F. M." Thomas. Alas, I am now the only one left. It was either at that lunch, or a year or so later, that Jonas told me that he was more proud of having ended up at the head of the administration which he had joined nearly 30 years previously, than of having later been appointed a governor. My circumstances were the same, and I told him that he had expressed my own feelings exactly. You did not mention, in your excellent obituary, that Glyn Jones was an international footballer. Shortly before he started his career in Northern Rhodesia, he was capped for Wales.

Sir Douglas Hall (last governor of Somaliland)



Laurence Naismith

LAWRENCE Naismith (obituary, June 11) and his son, John, and wife, Christine, ran the wonderful Rowbarge pub and restaurant from 1970 to the middle 1980s, situated on the River Kennet in the village of Woolhampton, between Reading and Newbury. The pub was also a haven to that generation of boys from the nearby Douai School, of which I was one. Larry was a father figure "in loco parentis" to us and was always ready with a word of chastisement or encouragement during the lonely days before A levels, when a pint and a chat

with Larry was a welcome respite from the austerity of school life. During 1971 Larry was often away filming the Lew Grade hit TV series *The Persuaders* with Roger Moore and Tony Curtis, then the most expensive UK television production ever. Larry played the character of Judge Fulton, boss of Curtis and Moore. The Rowbarge was Larry's home and house and all who crossed the threshold were Larry's guests and were expected to behave as such; more than one or two fell foul of a brief piece of farsome acting from the old master if he took exception to them.

Nicholas Samengo-Turner

SIR JOHN MUSKER

Sir John Musker, banker, racehorse owner and breeder, has died aged 86. He was born on January 25, 1906.



THE Shadwell stud in Norfolk, which was owned by Sir John Musker until sold in 1984 to Shaikh Hamdan al-Maktoom for a figure said to be about £1,500,000, has had a considerable influence on breeding for the English Turk the latest example of the many classic winners descended from its candidates being User Friendly who brilliantly captured the Oaks earlier this month.

User Friendly's ancestry on her dam's side goes back to Absurdity who was foaled in 1903 at the Shadwell stud and her descendants, quite apart from User Friendly, have won every English classic in the calendar. Absurdity's sire was Melton, winner in a thrilling finish to the 1885 Derby and she was Melton for whom the Shadwell stud was founded by Musker's grandfather. He had bought the 12,000 acres of Shadwell Park in 1898 after selling the Home and Colonial Stores which he had founded. Melton was repatriated to England after standing in Italy and came to Norfolk

after a spell at stud in Kent. In only a few years the stud had so prospered that it was the largest breeding centre in the country. Musker eventually inherited Shadwell on the death of his father in 1946. He had completed his education at St John's College, Cambridge, after which he joined the City Bankers, Catter, Brightwell & Co, becoming chairman in 1938 and then of Catter, Ryder & Co, from 1960 to 1971. When war came he joined the navy, being promoted in time to lieutenant, RNVR. After demobilisation and taking over the stud he set about a very successful reorganisation plan. Famous horses who

were stallions at Shadwell already included the 1938 Derby winner Bois Roussel, who was joined by his son Tehran, who had won the St Leger, the Two Thousand Guineas winner Martial and the Champion miller, Reform. But the nearest Musker came to classic success himself as an owner was not with a homebred horse but with the filly Stella Polaris whom he always regarded as the best he ever bought, at a bloodstock sale. In 1950 she was third in the Oaks, beaten only 2½ lengths behind the French-trained Asmena. However, he did own the Royal Ascot winners Right of Way and Fortuity, both of whom he had bred. Other good horses produced under his guidance at Shadwell included Discoria, winner of the Irish Oaks, whose dam was Stella Polaris; Lord Allendale's Woodburn (Yorkshire Cup and Cesarewitch); Lord Rosebery's Fastnet Rock (Victoria Cup) and Lord Howard de Walden's Sandrine (placed in the St Leger).

In 1952 Musker was knighted for his work on the London county council. He was three times married, but all his wives predeceased him. He leaves a daughter of his first marriage.

William G. McGowan, the entrepreneur who broke the monopoly of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and thereby changed the shape of the telephone industry in the United States, died after a heart attack in Washington on June 8 aged 64. He was born in Ashley, Pennsylvania, on December 10, 1927.

TWENTY years ago it seemed inconceivable that America's long-distance telephone service could ever be provided by anyone other than AT&T — affectionately known as "Ma Bell." The company was so powerful that its monopoly seemed immune to challenge; least of all by a fledgling company with revenues of less than \$100,000. Bill McGowan thought otherwise.

McGowan, a graduate of Harvard Business School, was working as a consultant in New York in the late 1960s, specialising in the rescue of troubled companies. And it was one such company, Microwave Communications, that drew him into the telecommunications business. Microwave's trouble was a feud with AT&T, which was blocking its modest request to operate a radio tele-

phone service on trucks travelling between Chicago and St Louis. To establish its microwave system the company needed the permission of the Federal Communications Commission, and Ma Bell's immense influence was blocking the application.

McGowan saw his opportunity, bought a half-share in Microwave Communications for \$50,000, and promptly formed it into a new company, MCI Communications Corporation. Then he began the fight with Ma Bell in earnest. By 1971 the FCC had granted MCI the right to compete with AT&T for long distance service throughout the United States. But through its 22 local telephone companies AT&T refused to give MCI access to businesses and households.

In 1974, with the support of the Justice Department, MCI filed an anti-trust suit against AT&T, accusing it of unfairly thwarting competition in the long distance market. AT&T fought tooth and nail, dragging the legal action on for so long that MCI employees joked that their company was no more than "a law firm with an antenna on the roof".

McGowan lobbied tirelessly to convince congress and federal agencies that in-

creased competition would be good for the telephone service and in 1980 a jury awarded MCI millions of dollars in damages for its suit against AT&T, although it took another five years for the matter to be settled for an undisclosed sum. In the meantime the Justice Department's case against AT&T continued, with McGowan's active assistance. The monopoly finally agreed to spin off its local telephone companies in 1982 in return for the government dropping its suit, and the market was at last open to competition.

By 1991 MCI had grown into a multi-national corporation with annual revenues of \$9.5 billion and 16 per cent of the market for international and domestic long-distance calls. But the constant pressure had taken its toll on McGowan's health. He suffered a severe heart attack in 1986 and underwent a heart transplant operation the following year. He took three months leave, but returned to function as MCI's chief executive until six months ago. He died while attending a routine exercise programme at Georgetown University Hospital.

William McGowan is survived by his wife, Sue Ling Gin.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Edward I, reigned 1042-1066. London, 1239; Pedro Calderón de la Barca, dramatist, Madrid, 1604; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1703; William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, astronomer, York, 1800; Charles François Gounod, composer, Paris, 1818; Igor Stravinsky, composer, Oranienbaum, Russia, 1882. DEATHS: Joseph Addison, essayist, London, 1719; Richard H. Barham, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, London, 1945; Sir Edward Burne-Jones, painter, London, 1898; John Cooper Powys, novelist, Blaenau, 1963; Ray McNally, actor, 1969. The Great Eastern (692 ft, 12,000 tons), designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, began its first transatlantic voyage, 1860.

Today's birthdays

Sir Derek Barber (life peer), conservationist, 74; Mr S.A. Bowles Lyon, Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, 60; Sir Michael Cairne, chairman, Booker, 65; Dr Andrew Coyle, governor, Brinkton Prison, 48; Sir William Dale, legal consultant, 86; Sir Edward Downes, conductor, 68; Sir Patrick Duffy, former MP, 72; Mrs Laura Duncan, Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, 45; Sir Patrick Fairweather, diplomat, 56; Sir Stanley Grinstead, former chairman, Reed International, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Le Chennell, 72; Mr Ken Livingstone, MP, 47; Mr Kenneth Louch, television and film director, 56; Mr Barry Manilow, singer and composer, 46; Sir Peter Michael, former chairman, UEL, 54; Miss Beryl Reid, actress, 72; Professor Karol

Sikora, oncologist, 44; Sir Roy Sison, former chairman, Smiths Industries, 78; Lieutenant-Colonel A.M. Spott, Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 73; Mr Brian Sutherland, cricketer, 62; Captain R.W.K. Stirling of Fairburn, Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh, 60; Lord Sudeley, 53; Sir Mervyn Thomas, former president, Welsh Liberal Party, 74; Professor Sir Alan Walters, economist, 66.

Dinner

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, was host at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons after a meeting which was addressed by Professor Donald Longmore, Director of the Magnetic Resonance Unit, Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, and Professor John Marshall, Frost Professor of Ophthalmology, Guy's and St Thomas's Medical and Dental School. The other guests included: Lord Auckland, Mr Alfred Morris, MP, Sir Terence English (president, Royal College of Surgeons), Mr R.W. Chappell (president, British College of Ophthalmists), Mr Tam Dayell, MP, Mr David Davis, MP, and the Rev W Martin Smyth, MP.

Royal engagements

The Duke of York will attend the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club centenary dinner, Old Deer Park, Richmond, at 7.30. Prince Edward will unveil the first two bays in the reconstruction of the Shakespeare Globe Theatre, Southwark, at 11.30 and will bury steel time capsules in the centre of the site; and will attend a luncheon at Glaziers' Hall at 12.15. The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit, Jadin House, Kenilworth Road, at 10.30; as Master of the Lorraines' Company, will attend a committee meeting at the Aldermen's Court, Guildhall, at 2.00; as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend a meeting of the council at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 4.10; and, as President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend a reception in the Royal Naval Museum at 7.30 followed by a dinner on board HMS Victory, Portsmouth. The Duke of Kent, as President of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association (Scotland), will attend a reception at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, at 12.10; and, as Fellow of the Royal Society, will attend a soirée at 6 Carlton House Terrace at 8.30. The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of Age Concern, will visit Watlington and district "Drop In" centre at 2.35; and Newell Farm, Stuchampston, Oxfordshire, at 3.10. Princess Alexandra will attend a gala concert at Middle Temple Hall at 7.00 in aid of the London International Spring Quartet competition.

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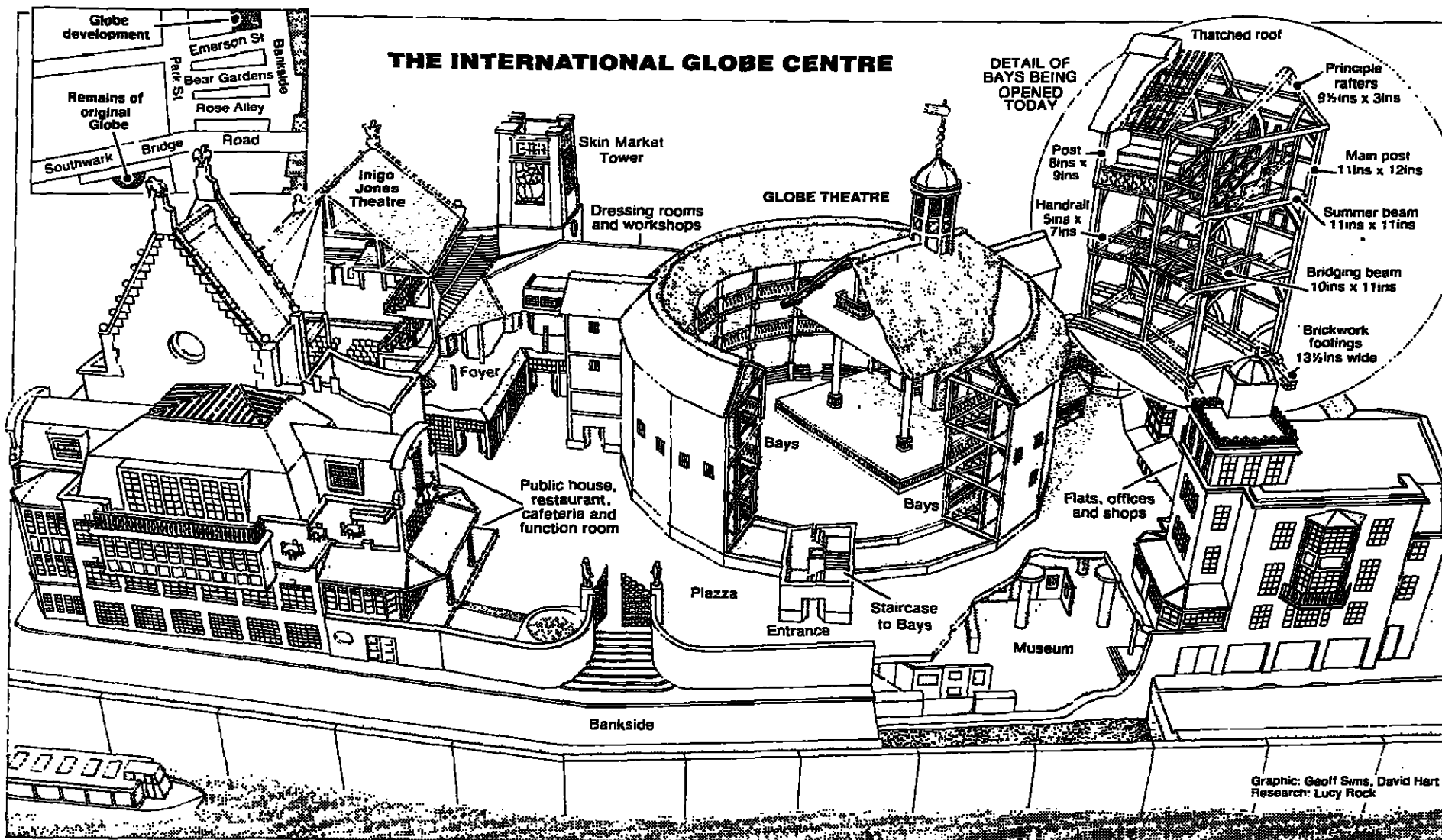
June 17 ON THIS DAY 1881

Sir Josiah Mason (1795-1881) who began his working life hawking cakes, fruit and vegetables and taught himself to write when he was a shoemaker's apprentice, rose to become a major maker of steel pens and a rich man. He was a generous benefactor in the West Midlands and was the founder of Mason Science College, Birmingham.

OBITUARY.

Sir Josiah Mason died last night at his residence, Norwood house, Edlington at the ripe age of 86. He had been suffering for some time past, the result of a slight fall which he met with some fourteen weeks ago. The effect of this accident culminated in rupture, and since that time all hope of prolonging his life had been abandoned. He had been gradually sinking since Tuesday last, and at 8 o'clock last night he passed away quietly and painlessly as if in sleep. Sir Josiah Mason, who was of humble parentage, was born at Kidderminster on the 23rd of February, 1795. He began life as a street hawker of cakes, fruits and vegetables. After trying his hand in his native town at shoemaking, baking, carpentering, blacksmith's work, house painting, and carpentering, he migrated in 1814 to Birmingham, where an uncle was then residing. Here he soon found employment in the gilt toy trade, at which he continued to work till 1822, when, through his connection with Mr Healey, a steel toy maker, he was introduced to take up the manufacture of split-rings. In 1824 he set up on his own account as a manufacturer of split-rings by machinery, to which he subsequently added the manufacture of steel pens. Mason divided with Giltott and Mitchell the credit of perfecting the modern steel pen, the history of which practically dates from the discovery of the art of

splitting by machinery. Although less known to the public than the other makers named, owing to the circumstances of his pen being supplied through Messrs. Ferry of London, Sir Josiah Mason was really the largest producer of steel pens. In 1874, when the business was converted into a limited company, he had over a thousand workpeople constantly engaged. Over three tons of rolled steel weekly. Besides his steel pen trade, Sir Josiah Mason carried on for many years the business of electrotyping, proof sheeting, and india-rubber ring making in conjunction with the late George Richard Elkington, of the firm of Elkington and Mason. Sir Josiah Mason was almost entirely self-educated, having taught himself to write when a shoemaker's apprentice, and in later life he appeared to feel his educational deficiencies very keenly. It was his sense of the value of education which led him in 1850 to establish his great orphanage at Edlington, where 300 girls, 150 boys, and 50 very young children are gratuitously lodged, clothed, fed and educated. Upon this foundation Sir Josiah Mason expended altogether about £300,000, of which the building alone absorbed £60,000. For this munificent benefaction Sir Josiah Mason received, in November, 1872, the honour of knighthood. He had previously given a dispensary to his native town and established an almshouse at Edlington. In February, 1880, he set the seal to another great public benefaction by presiding at the opening of the Mason Science College, the inaugural address of which was delivered by Professor Huxley. In this case also about £60,000 was expended upon the building and the total value of the endowment probably falls a little short of a quarter of a million. Sir Josiah married in 1817 his cousin Anne Griffiths, who died February 2, 1870, leaving no issue. His name and fame are not likely to be soon forgotten in the town of his adoption.



How the new Shakespeare centre will look when completed

Globe rises from old ashes

A LONGSTANDING dream to recreate Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the South Bank will start to become a reality today when Prince Edward unveils the first two bays of the structure.

They form two of the 20 sides of the original 1599 theatre, and will allow scholars to debate every aspect of the reconstruction in advance. Theo Crosby, of Pentagram, the project architects, said: "There are plenty of faked-up Globes around the world built with steel frames and air conditioning. No one has yet tried to make an authentic replica with the right materials."

The timber-frame structure has been designed following advice from the country's leading expert on the subject, Richard Harris, and built by Peter McCurdy, a noted restorer of timber buildings. In the course of the next two months, the tiered seating, balustrades, and thatched roof will be added.

The first phase of a project to recreate an Elizabethan world of theatre will be unveiled today by Prince Edward, reports Marcus Binney

"The fire authorities have accepted in principle that a timber structure will be safe. The slow charring rate of the massive oak beams would ensure the public have ample time to evacuate in an emergency," said Mr Crosby. No chemical materials producing toxic smoke will be used, he said. He hopes the test bays will persuade the authorities to allow him to put back the thatch used on the original.

The project was first conceived by Sam Wanamaker, the American actor and director, when he came to London in 1949. A 125-year lease has been secured on a riverside site opposite St Paul's Cathedral.

Mr Wanamaker now pro-

poses not just a theatre, but an ambitious international Shakespeare centre, including a second theatre built to a design by Inigo Jones. This will be used for concerts and 17th-century plays.

The cost of reconstructing the Globe is estimated at £3.5 million, but a total of £8 million is sought for the project. The recent discovery of the foundations of the original Globe nearby, beneath the Grade I listed Anchor Terrace, suggests that the original theatre had 20 sides, not the 24 previously supposed.

The original Globe theatre was built in 1599 out of the timbers of an earlier playhouse north of the Thames. The theatre was destroyed in 1613 when a cannon spark set fire to the thatched roof. It was rebuilt to a slightly different design and was destroyed in 1644, two years after the Puritans closed the playhouses.

South Bank opera plans considered

Continued from page 1

Last week the Jubilee Gardens freehold, previously owned by the London Residuary Body, was sold to the Arts Council for £1 in a move described as "an administrative formality". The South Bank Board continues as leaseholder of the site.

There is no indication of what would happen to Covent Garden opera house if the Royal Opera moved to the South Bank, nor whether the long-delayed redevelopment of Covent Garden would go ahead. As for the Coliseum, one suggestion is that if the ENO vacates the theatre it could be turned into a national dance house.

Dance companies are lobbying Mr Mellor to fund such a facility based at London's derelict Lyceum Theatre. A proposal for the Coliseum, however, with its superior conditions for dance, would probably be preferred.

Lamont says economy no longer needs Neddy

Continued from page 1

could talk face to face about the problems of the economy "is to be swept away in what seems like a last spasm of Thatcherism".

Neddy, set up to improve Britain's economic performance, has seen its role downgraded in recent years. It used to meet every month and was occasionally chaired by the prime minister of the day. In the late 1980s, the then chancellor, Nigel Lawson, cut meetings to four a year. Six trade unionists sit on Neddy, as do ministers and leaders of the Confederation of British Industry.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said Neddy was an "empty shell". He added: "We will not miss it because it was a non-event which did nothing, while ministers and employers showed no enthusiasm for it anyway. However, the TUC general secretary, Norman Willis, said that

the scrapping of Neddy "flies in the face" of British economic reality and of experience in other countries.

In the Commons, Mr Lamont, who, along with his predecessors, regarded Neddy as an anachronism, said that he had become convinced that dialogue with both sides of industry could best be conducted in private when specific issues arose rather than in the highly publicised and politicised discussions of recent years.

Mr Heseline said that the decision had his full support. He said that it was important to "start afresh" and that this meant moving responsibility for relations between government and industry back to sponsoring departments.

Mr Lamont said that changes such as the fall in union membership and the rise in self-employment and small firms, meant that the NEDC "no longer reflects the needs and realities of the British economy".

Political sketch

Major wields the little stick

A new, rather brittle John Major marched up to the dispatch box to take questions yesterday. The style was summary, almost tart. Mr Major was not lofty or grand, nor visibly angry. He lacks pomposity. But he can be starchy, and coming home from Rio to find the House in disarray has been a shock. There has been a breakout from the nursery, the children are fighting among themselves and some of the younger ones have soiled the continental soft furnishings so lately acquired, and torn the Belgian lace. Discipline was needed.

This, Major administrators not with rifle-butt as Lady Thatcher would, afterwards kicking her victim's head: but with a flick of the cane on the soft part behind the knees, followed by a consolatory squeeze of the shoulder. It works. Backbench Tories seemed subdued. Mischievous grins had vanished. At first, no Tory dared enquire about Europe.

Labour's Kevin Hughes (Doncaster N) took shelter behind a question about the depletion of a peat bog in Yorkshire. Mr Major was having none of this. In a slightly severe voice, he told Mr Hughes (in so many words) to ring his office with the details.

Barry Field (C. Isle of Wight) thought humour his best refuge, and tried an oblique approach, via mad dogs, rabies and the Liberal Democrats. The Liberals, Mr Field told a bemused PM, wanted to use the Isle of Wight as a test-zone for a rabies-vaccination campaign. "Mad dogs and foreigners" must be kept out of Britain, he said.

We wondered where Mr Field's question was leading, but the next stage only confused us further. Liberal Democrats, he continued, have been defeated in the polls. What could this mean? Oh, he added, and border controls between EC countries were to remain. Nobody had the slightest idea what he was talking about.

So, concluded Mr Field, pink-faced as his logical destination hove at last into view: could the PM "give this House an assurance that the government will continue the controls which prevent both these

terrible diseases?" Mr Field sat down.

A Ver Writes: Liberalism and rabies are not often bracketed in this way. Most people regard Liberalism as far more dangerous, and certainly the effects of the malady upon its victim are more dramatic. The rolling eyes, foaming mouth and inclination to bite are more marked in the Liberal Democrat than in the dog, and there is no guaranteed inoculation against the political affliction, though a happy home life, regular meals and a proper job can help. There is no known cure for either disorder.

Mr Major managed a thin smile. Roy Hattersley wiped it from his face with an elegant barb. Would the PM care to describe the qualities making M Delors Britain's choice for the presidency of the European commission? You could see Mr Major thinking. Maybe he was pondering Noel Coward's remark to Liberate when the two men met (unexpectedly and for the first time) on the Queen Mary. "How do you do, Mr Liberate?" said Coward slowly. "I think... you do... what you do... very well indeed."

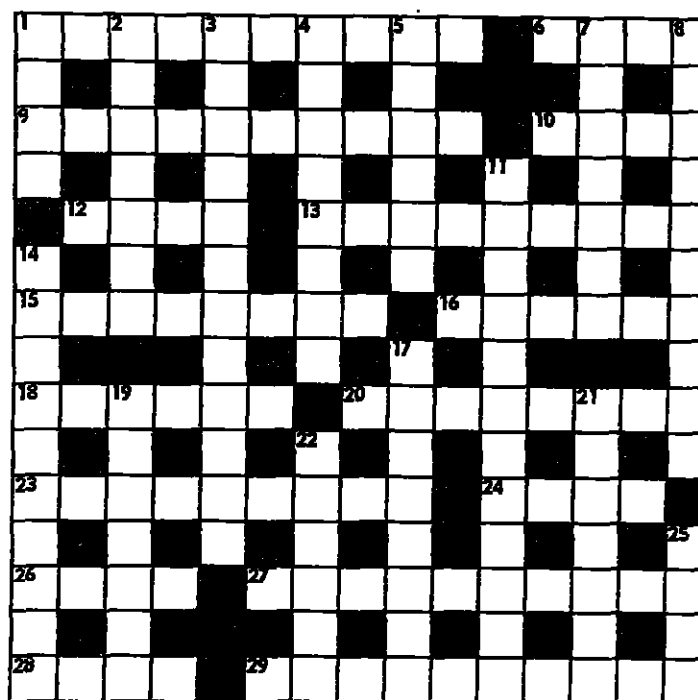
After several lurches from Mr Hattersley, Mr Major took Sir Noel's tack. "M Delors has many qualities," he said to Paddy Ashdown, smiling bleakly.

Only Nick Budgen (C. Wolverhampton SW) returned to the EC charge, flummoxing against the impression of the term "subsidiarity". Mr Budgen is not used to being on the winning side of an argument and the experience has unnerved him. The normally terse, bird-like barrister became prolix, giving the PM time to think. Yes, said Mr Major, crisply, quite so: the term needs definition. Mr Budgen frowned. An annex to Maastricht defining subsidiarity hardly answers his prayers but did answer his question, so he was stymied.

When Lady Thatcher would have chosen a rolling pin, Mr Major preferred a whisk. But Nicholas Soames, the enormous minister of food has his own way of helping enforce cabinet discipline. On the bench after lunch, he sat on Michael Portillo.

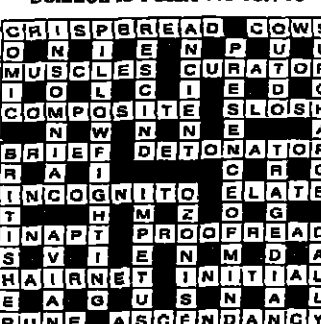
MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,947



- ACROSS**
- A funny lady to appear in need, somehow (10).
 - Eat away with others and start to hiccup (4).
 - Psychiatrist, qualified but may accept a reduction (10).
 - The place to find a 20 (4).
 - Chimney pipe causing vocal complaint (4).
 - To prepare the way back, speak to 4 (9).
 - Device for removing inverted military footgear (8).
 - A not wholly typical Mondrian tree (6).
 - Room of fellow in charge needs key (6).
 - The result of a wild goose chase for a placeman? (8).
 - Like a Martini-Henry - doubly so (9).
 - Five French said to have drowned here (4).
 - Dickens admits a widow, Ruth, married him (4).
- DOWN**
- The players' shed (4).
 - Candida's husband gets over love for Cherry (7).
 - Disc jockey's abbreviated attire (6-6).
 - On change of scene the lady has to vanish (8).
 - Water course, sav, for invalid with a heavy head (6).
 - African bird has to travel with ring round bill (7).
 - Old soldier is tipsy - hide barrel (10).
 - Get rich on the gravy train (7-5).
 - Sailors round on mad rabbit - may be drunk (10).
 - The obvious place to find excellent climbing shrub (8).
 - Hitchhitch from Wells, perhaps, about an artist (7).
 - Opposed to church that's non-militant (7).
 - A picture on the wall put up as a warning (6).
 - Congel into a cold mass (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,946



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 25 percent of the competitors at the 1992 London regional final of The Times Inter-City Crossword Championship.

Concise crossword, page 11 Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- BROCKAGE**
a. Riveting driftwood
b. A family car of badgers
c. An imperfectly minted coin
- OBEQUITION**
a. Riding
b. Leaving in a huff
c. Obeying
- ESPRINGAL**
a. A concealed man-trap
b. Medieval stone-throwing machine
c. The woodcock
- TORQUATED**
a. Exhausted, flaked
b. Quadrupled
c. Wearing a twisted chain

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

LONDON & SE

C. London (with N & S Divs)	731
M1/M25/M40	732
M1/M25/M40	733
M1/M25/M40	734
M1/M25/M40	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National

National	737
West Country	738
Midlands	739
East Anglia	740
North-east England	741
North-west England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744
Wales	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 9.21 pm to 10.42 pm
Bristol 9.26 pm to 10.47 pm
Edinburgh 10.26 pm to 10.47 pm
Manchester 9.21 pm to 10.42 pm
Penzance 9.26 pm to 10.47 pm

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C
Today: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C
Tomorrow: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C
Today: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C
Tomorrow: Temp. max 18°C, min 10°C

Today's pollen count forecast is HIGH SELDANE

A major advance in hayfever treatment.

WEATHER

Most places will have a dry day with sunny spells. However, the far north and northwest Scotland will start cloudy, with drizzle in places, and these conditions will edge southwards. Temperatures will be similar to yesterday but it will feel rather fresh in the brisk northeast wind over southeast England. This wind may reach near gale force in the Channel. Outlook: continuing cloudy and cool in many places.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=thunder, 2=dew, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=cloud, 6=rain, 7=drizzle, 8=snow, 9=ice, 10=wind, 11=light, 12=dark

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Madrid	21	10	10
London	18	10	10
Paris	18	10	10
Rome	21	10	10
Amsterdam	18	10	10
Brussels	18	10	10
Frankfurt	18	10	10
Hamburg	18	10	10
Berlin	18	10	10
Cologne	18	10	10
Düsseldorf	18	10	10
Leipzig	18	10	10
Munich	18	10	10
Nuremberg	18	10	10
Stuttgart	18	10	10
Vienna	18	10	10
Zurich	18	10	10

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	10	10
Edinburgh	18	10	10
Belfast	18	10	10
Cardiff	18	10	10
Exeter	18	10	10
Gloucester	18	10	10
Leeds	18	10	10
Liverpool	18	10	10
Manchester	18	10	10
Newcastle	18	10	10
Nottingham	18	10	10
Sheffield	18	10	10
Sunderland	18	10	10
Swansea	18	10	10
Torquay	18	10	10
Wolverhampton	18	10	10
Wrexham	18	10	10

TOURIST RATES

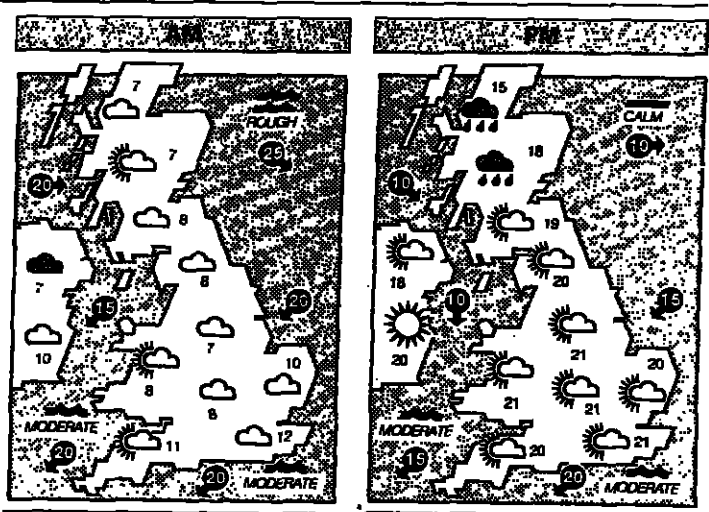
City	Rate
London	18
Edinburgh	18
Belfast	18
Cardiff	18
Exeter	18
Gloucester	18
Leeds	18
Liverpool	18
Manchester	18
Newcastle	18
Nottingham	18
Sheffield	18
Sunderland	18
Swansea	18
Torquay	18
Wolverhampton	18
Wrexham	18

TOWER BRIDGE

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Today's pollen count forecast is HIGH SELDANE

A major advance in hayfever treatment.



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, far; l, low; s, sun.

Monday: highest day temp: Southampton 28C (84F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Lough Linn, 0.13m; Highest sunshine: London 14.8hr.

Yesterday: Temp. max 8am to 6pm, 20C (68F); min 6pm to 8am, 10C (50F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil; Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.8hr.

GLASGOW

Today: Temp. max 8am to 6pm, 20C (68F); min 6pm to 8am, 10C (50F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil; Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.8hr.

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High/Low: Today: High 20C (68F), Low 10C (50F); Tomorrow: High 20C (68F), Low 10C (50F); Day after: High 20C (68F), Low 10C (50F).

cal sketch
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terrible diseases...
field sat down...
A 17th-century...
and tables are...
backed in this way...
people regard...
as far more dan...
certainly the ef...
malady upon its...
eyes, foaming m...
inclination to b...
marked in the l...
ocrat than in t...
there is no guar...
entation against...
real affliction...
happy home life...
meals and a prop...
help. There is n...
cure for either d...
Mr. Major man...
thru smile. Row...
wiped it from h...
an elegant barb...
PM care to dev...
the qualities m...
Britain's choic...
presidency of t...
commissioner? You...
Mr. Major think...
he was ponder...
Coward's remark...
I agree when the...
first time on the...
Marty. "How do y...
Liberalism," said...
slowly. "I think...
what you do...
After several l...
Mr. Hattersley...
took Sir Noel's...
Delors has nam...
said to Paddy...
smiling bleakly

PM

HIGHEST & LOWEST

GLASGOW

TIRES

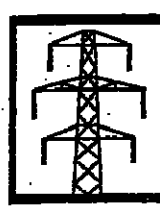
TODAY

LOW

RAPIDE

TODAY IN BUSINESS

POWER PLAY

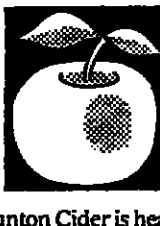


The root of most problems in today's energy market is the uncompetitive nature of electricity generation, Colin Robinson, professor of economics at Surrey University argues
Page 23

MONEY MATTERS

The PSBR in May fell to £13.13 billion, down from a revised £3.46 billion, but scepticism about reaching the year's target remains
Page 21

CIDER TOAST




Taunton Cider is headed for a Stock Exchange listing next month with a market value of £150 million
Page 20

TV LINES

Europe's television-set makers have reached an understanding that could see HDTV sets in Europe by the year end
Page 21

SWEET TASTE



Peter Barr celebrates his first year as chairman of Hazlewood Foods with a higher dividend but flat profits
Pages 21 and 22

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8560 (-0.0023)
German mark 2.9152 (-0.0020)
Exchange index 92.8 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2037.0 (+10.5)
FT-SE 100 2616.3 (+22.7)
New York Dow Jones 3357.57 (+2.67)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16853.53 (+0.30)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate 5 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.64%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£/\$ 1.8594
£/DM 2.9164
£/Sfr 2.0198
£/FF 6.5183
£/Yen 236.58
£/Index 92.8
£/SDR 10.70300
£/ECU 4.22414
New York:
\$/£ 0.5380
DM/\$ 0.3570
Sfr/\$ 1.4775
FF/\$ 1.2070
Yen/\$ 126.73
Index 92.8
SDR \$/£ 10.71281
ECU \$/£ 4.21375

London forex market close

GOLD

London fixing:
AM \$342.15-342.25
Close \$342.10-342.50 (€184.20-184.70)
New York:
Close \$342.25-342.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$21.20 bbl (\$21.30)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 May (1987-100)
Denotes midday trading price

Liquidator threatens legal action

Pressure grows on banks over Maxwell funds

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidator of the Maxwell pension funds has warned banks and financial institutions that did business with Robert Maxwell that "the gloves are now off" in his fight to recover £455 million in missing assets.

Nell Cooper, the partner from Robson Rhodes who is liquidator to Bishopsgate Investment Management, the main Maxwell pension fund manager, is considering legal action against at least seven banks and securities houses. He wants to force them to return pension fund assets or the proceeds from the sale of assets, which they took as security on loans or debt repayments from Robert Maxwell's private companies. He said it is too late for banks to hand over the shares they hold and expect to end the matter.

"The banks have had more than seven months to return those assets. If those shares have fallen in value since this started, I will take action against them for the difference," he added.

Mr Cooper said financial institutions did not take proper precautions when they accepted pension fund assets as security for loans to Robert Maxwell's private companies. He added: "If banks asked for written assurances from Maxwell company directors that these shares belonged to the private companies, it proves they were investigating the matter. They should have taken the time to prove these assets belonged to the companies they were lending to."

Meanwhile, it has emerged that the value of the remaining assets in the pension funds are falling due to the poor quality of the investments. Mr Maxwell sold or pledged all the funds' most valuable assets before he died. Most of the remaining money is invested in small American and French companies. Robson Rhodes figures show that the value of the funds fell by £11 million to £226 million in the first four months of the year. Some of the assets in the portfolio are now penny shares.

Capital House, the fund management subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland that now runs the fund, has decided not to sell the shares in the hope they will recover.

Mr Cooper is demanding the return of shares worth more than £60 million in Teva Pharmaceutical, an Israeli company, from National Westminster Credit Suisse, and Lehman Brothers. It has also asked Banque Nationale de Paris to return a £31 million stake in Euris, a French investment company.

Last week, NatWest took the first step to resolving the dispute when it asked the High Court to decide the ownership of the Teva shares it holds, and promised to return them if the court decides they are owned by the pension fund.

The case is due to be heard next month, but is likely to be brought forward. Robson Rhodes and Stephenson Harwood, its solicitor, are trying to persuade Arthur Andersen, the administrator of the Maxwell private companies, to drop its competing claim on the shares.

Robson Rhodes is thought to be pleased with the help from NatWest. The liquidators have questioned several NatWest executives about the Teva loan, but they are angry with other banks that have refused them access to staff and records without a court order.

Robson Rhodes and Stephenson also want NatWest and the Bank of Nova Scotia to return £107 million raised last October from the sale of a stake in Suez, an Israeli printing company. The money was used to repay some of the debt of Robert Maxwell Group, one of Mr Maxwell's main private companies, but Robson Rhodes claims the shares belonged to the pension funds.

The liquidator is trying to trace a further £60 million raised from the liquidation of a blue-chip portfolio owned by the pension funds last year.

The shares were sold by London & Bishopsgate International Investment Management, one of Mr Maxwell's investment companies, and the proceeds diverted into the private companies.

Secret report, page 8

Lipworth urges reform of EC competition control

BY ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Sydney Lipworth, head of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has called for a radical reform of the way the European Community investigates and adjudicates competition issues.

An investigative tribunal, independent of the European Commission, should be set up, Sir Sydney said. The tribunal's findings should be binding unless the EC chose to vary them for stated reasons of industrial policy.

Concerns over weaknesses in the present system, spelled out by Sir Sydney at a seminar organised by the European Policy Forum in Brussels, were also expressed by Rolf Geberth, director of the German Federal Ministry of Economics. Dr Geberth proposed the establishment of a European Cartel Office.

Such criticism is likely to add to pressure for reform of Europe's most senior competition authority during Britain's six-month presidency of the Community, which begins next month.

Sir Sydney said the lack of separation of powers and of transparency were deep flaws in the existing powers of the EC. "It is simultaneously detective, prosecutor, judge and executioner," Sir Sydney said.

Both Sir Sydney and Dr Geberth expressed concern over EC proposals that would take a lenient view of joint ventures against other forms of company co-operation.

Dr Geberth said it was important to lighten the EC workload and deal with a backlog of cases. He called for a cartel office that would be closer to business and provide speedier decisions.

A spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, competition commissioner, declined to comment on the proposals but pointed out that Sir Leon had argued against splitting the legal and political sides of EC commission merger rulings earlier this year (George Brock writes from Brussels).

Sir Sydney's pressure said, "This may be administratively convenient, possibly efficient, but it gives rise to actual, or potential, conflicts of interest."

He also attacked the nature of the EC's decisions on competition issues. It was, he said, "a collegiate decision of the commissioners as a whole, none of whom, with the exception of the competition commissioner, was involved in the investigative process that preceded the decision."

The status of EC decisions was unclear because the process lacked transparency. "Is it a legal, political or administrative decision?" he asked. "No one can be sure." One solution, he suggested, embodied some features of Britain's competition control.

In Britain, the Office of Fair Trading has to keep a weather eye open for undue concentrations of economic power. When concerned, the OFT can call for an MMC investigation. The president of the Board of Trade reviews the report, and, if desired, requests the OFT to engineer a satisfactory solution.

In Europe, Sir Sydney said, the investigation and adjudication should be carried out by a body that is either independent of the EC or of the prosecution functions of the competition directorate.

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Not at Royal Ascot, jeans by Gieves

BY JON ASHWORTH

GENTLEMEN in any doubt over what to wear for Royal Ascot have for decades consulted Gieves & Hawkes, the Savile Row tailor that has served lords and generals for more than two centuries.

How then would they take the sight of a pair of blue jeans hanging in the window? Faced with mounting losses, Gieves Group, the parent company, has committed an act that may set bone-china teacups in the West Country trembling with rage. The company has sold the rights over 28 per cent of its shares to a South East Asian clothing company better known for jeans and T-shirts than regimental tunics.

Gieves has sold a tranche of convertible loan stock to USI Holdings, a Hong Kong listed member of the Wing Tai Group, a garment maker and distributor, for £2.5 million. Christopher Cheng, chief executive of Wing Tai, and Kit Maunsell, a senior director, join the Gieves board as non-executive directors.

Both are directors of Vivat Holdings, the company that makes Lee Cooper jeans. Mr Cheng is chairman of Campari International, the leisurewear group, and Mr Maunsell is chief executive. Wing Tai took 30 per cent stakes in both companies in 1990. Hence, Gieves & Hawkes now has a jeans company and an American sportswear specialist as stablemates.

How times have changed since Henry Stanley and David Livingstone held their historic meeting in the African bush in October 1871. Dr Livingstone was killed out at Gieves, founded in 1785, which specialised in naval uniforms. Mr Stanley had called in at Hawkes, founded in 1771 and known for its military wear.

The rivalry ended in 1974, when Gieves bought Hawkes and combined their names in the famous showroom at 1 Savile Row. Nearly 20 years later, the menswear to publishing group has fallen on hard times. Losses before tax deepened from £428,000 in 1990 to £1.5 million last year. There is no dividend (Sp). The loss trebles from 3.1p to 11.1p a share.

The arrival of Mr Cheng and Mr Maunsell is part of a drive to restore the company's fortunes. It is selling Bookpoint, a book distributor, to Headline Book Publishing for £1.4 million.

Gieves plans to concentrate on what it knows best — clothing. Even this has had its problems. A new store in Milan lost £548,000 last year and Gieves is seeking a partner to help bail it out.

"Our timing could not have been worse," said Tom Scruby, chairman of Gieves. "There are no excuses. It was a misjudgment." With the best morning suits costing anything up to £1,750, thank goodness for Royal Ascot...



Maintaining the dividend stream: Brian Birkenhead, the National Power finance director, yesterday

National Power profits of £514m spark protests

Norweb's profits doubled

BY MARTIN WALLER

NATIONAL Power, the larger of the two quoted generators and accounting for almost half the electricity generating industry, has identified a further 3,000 job losses and announced pre-tax profits up by £80 million to £514 million in the year to end March. The news sparked the inevitable political controversy, led by Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman.

John Baker, the National Power chief executive, strongly defended his company's record. Pointing out that National Power spent £500 million on investment on generating plant last year, £300 million of this attributable to environmental clean-up, he said: "I think we've discovered in Mr Dobson a new renewable energy source."

er, and these would be carried out this financial year to leave fewer than 9,000 on the payroll by next March.

The electricity market grew 0.3 per cent last year, Mr Birkenhead said, but this compared with a half-year rise of 0.8 per cent and masked a second-half fall caused by the recession.

Talks between the generators, the distributors and British Coal would take a little longer, Mr Baker said. "The sort of deal, if it comes about, in prospect will lead to real terms reductions in electricity prices for consumers both in the first and in subsequent years of its operation."

National Power is becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of extra generating capacity that could come on stream during the rest of the decade and has asked Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, to investigate whether some of this plant is uneconomic, and what the eventual effect on electricity prices would be if such plant were to be built.

Leading article, page 15
Tempus, page 22
Power reform, page 23

Norweb's profits doubled

BY OUR CITY STAFF

NORWEB, the electricity distributor serving the North West, fuelled the argument over excessive profits by announcing a pre-tax figure almost doubled, from £70.3 million to £137.9 million, for the year to March 31.

Ken Harvey, chairman and chief executive, said the real growth in profits was 20 per cent after adjusting for non-recurring items. "I don't feel at all defensive," he said. "We're not going to see these increases in the future, just strong underlying growth."

A final dividend of 12.4p makes a total of 17.7p, a 13.2 per cent rise.

Mr Harvey expressed concern that the regulatory authorities might move forward from 1998 the date for throwing open the distribution industry to full competition. The uncertainty, he said, was delaying the signing of contracts between distributors and generators and so the resolution of British Coal's future.

His company and others were not prepared to sign contracts to take power if there was a risk they would lose customers for it.

Tempus, page 22

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Authority has expelled an...
for trading while insolvent and...
et trading losses and margin...
the onto the Metropolitan...
nd Hope Commodities, his...
to cease trading "on the ground...
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in January with an estimate...
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Street slips

McVie Street Investments...
year to April 30. Net asset value...
in 1991 but earnings per share...
dividend of 2.5p (5p) make...
net income rose by 6p from...
£2.1 million during the year...
in 1991 and Apollo Metals

olds steady

a plant hire company, held...
100 in the six months to March...
30 last time. The interim dividend...
to 1p. Turnover was unchanged...
Dunn, chairman, said the...
more directly competitive...
of Abelson Plant, acquired for...
ly completed.

k advances

k products and annual feed...
mewick Mill saw pre-tax profits...
million in the year to March...
£75 million to £94 million. A...
may paid 7.5p (6.5p) for the...
in 1991. £2.9 million for...
largest meat processing business...
in the Country Foods.

Liberty plea

entrepreneur challenging the...
retailer and wholesaler, has...
to support his proposals...
he share structure, which he...
Liberty outlined its criticisms...
response. Mr. Mervin has...
"selective" information that...
giving impression

xpects bid

an sports goods maker owned...
French (yoon), said a group...
is working on a bid for...
he was considering selling...
the French government and...
and's Pentland Group, which...
a stake in a holding company...
owned interest

Simon sale

group, the engineering company...
division to Thermo Fibertek...
Thermo Fibertek Corporation...
specialises in equipment for the...
screening kit. In the year to...
March 1991, Simon's profits...
of £1.3 million. Proceeds of...
the approval of shareholders

ze in the black

mgs, the livestock and...
need to profit in the six months...
turning £58,000 before tax...
to the first half of the previous...
a share, compared with...
to no interim dividend and...
the payment of a final...
£24.6 million to £25.28 million

Offer closes at GPA

THE \$1 billion global...
offer from GPA Group...
fresh based on...
firm, that closed in...
and Ireland last night...
by fully subscribed...
lower end of the price...
industry analysts...
Applicants had to...
tender offers, purchased...
\$10 and \$12.50 a share...
The resulting price...
British and Irish...
on Thursday, will...
the price of the...
Japanese, parts of...
which both remain...
June 20. GPA, the...
largest aircraft...
largest makes...
and is active...
to airlines. It...
but new customers...
and discount...
100 airlines...
will take delivery...
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Analysts caution against joy over PSBR fall

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT finances deteriorated less in May than the City had expected, with the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) falling to £3.13 billion from a revised £3.46 billion in April, according to Treasury figures.

Amid mounting concern that rising unemployment and delayed recovery were further undermining tax receipts, while boosting government expenditure on jobless benefits, independent economists had predicted that the PSBR would exceed £4 billion in May. But the May figure was flattened by changes, related to poll tax, in the way central government makes payments to local authorities. Cumulative borrowing for the first two months of the current

fiscal year has risen to £6.6 billion from the £5.6 billion at the same stage last year. Privatisation proceeds of £793 million, mainly from the sale of Scottish electricity, cut the May PSBR. In April, asset sales brought in £620 million.

Excluding privatisation proceeds, the cumulative borrowing requirement two months into fiscal 1992-93 was £8 billion, up from £6.7 billion at the same time last year. For all 1991-2, the PSBR came to £14 billion, or £22 billion without privatisations. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast a doubled PSBR this year of £28 billion, but is widely considered over-optimistic.

City analysts cautioned against reading too much into the May figures and remain

sceptical about the Treasury target being met for the fiscal year. Ian Shepherdson, economist at Midland Montagu, said the May figures were "not as good as they looked" and contained worrying signs on the revenue side. The timing of payments to local government explained the fall in central government expenditure in May compared with last year, he said. The change in the payments profile meant the early part of the year would show favourable expenditure figures, which would only be reversed later in the year, he added. Government revenue in the first two months of fiscal 1992-93 was 2.5 per cent below where it was a year ago, while the expenditure side was up 1.3 per cent.

The relative strength of the German economy was underlined by data, issued in Bonn yesterday, which showed federal tax revenue increasing by more than 25 per cent in the first quarter this year compared with the same period in 1991. Provisional figures showed that the regional states' tax revenue was up 17.6 per cent, while local authority revenue was up 19.8 per cent.

In its monthly report for June, the Bundesbank said the western German economy picked up significantly early this year, but there was still no clear sign that eastern German industry was recovering. The central bank renewed its warning against high wages, inflation, excessive money supply growth and high public spending, underlining its determination to keep up its interest rate guard.

Germany's M3 money supply measure showed an 8.9 per cent growth in April, up slightly from the provisional figure. The bank said M3 was probably accelerated by an inverse yield curve and worries about a new tax on interest income.

German exports rose 2.5 per cent in real terms in the first four months of 1992 compared with the four previous months, as exporters made renewed efforts to sell abroad after concentrating on east Germany. Imports picked up at a matching pace.



CAUSE for celebration: Peter Barr drinks to his first year as the chairman of Hazlewood Foods. Pre-tax profits remained unchanged at £51 million, but the dividend for the year to end-March rose from 5.8p to 6.1p. Tempus, page 22

EC standard for high-definition TV moves closer

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission said yesterday that the EC's television manufacturers, broadcasters and programmers had agreed a "memorandum of understanding" on moving towards a 16 by nine inch high-definition television standard in Europe.

If EC member states agree to pump the £600 million into HDTV that the companies say they need to introduce the technology, the new format television sets should be widely available by next year and a greater choice of programmes to watch on them should follow.

The commission said Philips of the Netherlands, Thomson of France and Nokia of Finland would be retailing HDTV sets for "around 1500 Ecu" (£1,050) by the end of this year.

The industry has been at loggerheads on HDTV strategy for the past two years. The commission stepped in about 18 months ago, worried that a technology in which Europe could take the lead might be lost to Japan and America. Both are developing their own systems, and European broadcasters suspect that they might turn out to be better than the system the commission is aiming for, called HD-MAC.

A problem for the consumer is that the 16 by nine broadcast available from next year will not be HD-MAC but an intermediate technology called D2-MAC. Whereas HD-MAC should provide pictures comparable to those seen on a 35 mm motion picture film, D2-MAC will not offer this quality. Broadcasters fear it is an unnecessary half-way house supported by the commission to keep Thomson and Philips in business.

In Britain, only a handful of television receivers are capable of picking up the D2-MAC signal. The 2.4 million households that receive BSkyB programmes have televisions that work in conventional PAL technology, and converting to the 16 by nine format will involve buying not only a new television but also a new satellite receiver.

Broadcasters' worries are reflected in the "memorandum of understanding", which has been watered down at the insistence of German

broadcasters and their industry association. They have persuaded the commission to put less emphasis on D2-MAC and insist that any commitment to broadcast in the standard depends on whether EC governments are prepared to stump up the £600 million.

Free-market governments such as Britain's have always doubted the wisdom of an HDTV strategy that is not market-led, and with the general disquiet about Jacques Delors' proposals for increasing the EC's budget by 30 per cent, the next telecommunications council may well not approve the HDTV money.

The commission believes it has won the day, however. It said in a press release: "A transition is starting rather like that from black-and-white to colour TV."

Bank chief rejects Bonn lobby

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

THE head of France's biggest financial market operator said Paris rejected the idea of the future European central bank being sited in Frankfurt and expressed surprise at Germany's insistence.

Robert Lion, managing director of Caisse des Depots et Consignations, the state bank, said there was a "consensus among well brought-up people" that the major financial centres of London, Frankfurt or Paris should not get the central bank, which would give them an unfair advantage.

"Paris will not accept Frankfurt. That would be a very bad deal," M. Lion said. He noted that Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, had said while still in office the bank ought to be sited in a city with a reputable financial market and economy, not one of the leading European centres.

Referring to lobbying from "the other side of the Rhine", M. Lion said some people should lower their voices.

Recovery in US starts gaining in strength

OFFICIAL data released yesterday indicate that the American recovery is becoming more established. They could help President Bush to restore his battered image in the run-up to the November election (writes Colin Narbrough).

An 11 per cent jump in housing starts last month helped to offset the 17.3 per cent slump in April. The May rise was the best housing starts figure for more than a year. It was spread across all regions, suggesting that earlier patchiness is being overcome.

Federal Reserve figures showed that output in America's factories, mines and utilities rose by 0.6 per cent in May, the fourth successive monthly gain. The rise was the biggest advance since last July. Capacity utilisation was 0.3 per cent higher at 79 per cent.

The Fed attributed much of the May increase to higher production of cars, spares and related materials. Output of both construction and mining machinery rose sharply.

On the foreign trade front, the commerce department said America's current account deficit dropped to \$5.3 billion in the first three

months of the year, the smallest quarterly shortfall since two quarterly surpluses last year. Those surpluses, however, resulted from payments from overseas towards the cost of the Gulf war campaign. The current account deficit narrowed by more than 26 per cent from \$7.22 billion in the final quarter of 1991.

Lower world oil prices, higher earnings from American banks overseas and higher earnings from tourism were among key factors behind the improved first quarter.

America could significantly reduce nominal long-term interest rates over time, but that did not mean that it could easily return to the 3 per cent level that prevailed in previous times of price stability, Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, told a Congressional committee.

He said markets remained sceptical about policymakers' ability to bring down inflation. Mr Greenspan said the inflation and risk premiums that are keeping long-term American interest rates up reflect market expectations of higher inflation in five years' time and beyond.

Hillsdown firms to merge

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the international food group, is merging Maple Leaf Foods and Corporate Foods, its Canadian subsidiaries, at a total cost of £60 million (Jon Ashworth writes).

The merger, subject to shareholders' approval, will secure Maple Leaf's place as one of the biggest food processing and bakery groups in North America. Maple Leaf owns 66 per cent of Corporate Foods, Canada's biggest baking group, and announced its

intention to buy out the minority shareholders in April. They are being offered 1.15 Maple Leaf shares for each Corporate Foods share, or C\$19.90 (£9) a share in cash.

The cost of the deal ranges from £27 million to £60 million, depending on how many shareholders take up the cash option. Hillsdown's 56 per cent holding in Maple Leaf will be diluted, depending on how many shares are taken up. The company will buy sufficient shares after comple-

tion of the deal to maintain its interest at 56 per cent.

Maple Leaf is Canada's largest food processing company with operations in Canada, America and Europe. Its products include fresh and prepared meats, poultry, flours, bakery mixes and products, seafood and animal feeds.

Maple Leaf reported pre-tax profits of C\$67.2 million (£30.4 million) for last year, an increase of 54 per cent. Sales were C\$3 billion.

Anglian directors share £16m stake

By OUR CITY STAFF

SEVEN directors of Anglian Group, including Bill Hancock, the chief executive, have turned an investment of £450,000 in a management buyout into shares that will be worth about £16 million when the company returns to the stock market next month.

Anglian, the former Anglian Windows business that makes and installs double glazing, was bought out from BET, the services conglomerate, for £84.5 million in December 1990. Directors invested £450,000 in the buyout and will hold about 8 per cent of the group, which will be capitalised at about £200 million on flotation.

The float will raise £56.5 million of new money. The draft prospectus discloses operating profits of £23 million on sales of £145.6 million in the year to end-March, against £15.5 million of profit from sales of £145 million in the previous year. Anglian made £15.6 million from sales of £141 million in the year to 2 April 1988.

The directors say they are confident about the prospects for the current year and believe the operating margin should be broadly maintained at last year's level. The offer price is expected to be announced in the final prospectus, to be published on June



Hancock: good return

Statement by TML 'improper'

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SIR Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, rebuked Transmanche Link, the consortium building the Channel tunnel, for making a statement that he said was "less than proper".

The statement, issued in Paris, said the ten consortium members would accept Eurotunnel shares in part payment for claims.

Sir Alastair said TML had not substantiated its claims: there was thus no debt. He faxed his reaction to Pierre Parisot, TML chairman.

TML's statement said: "Eurotunnel has proposed to pay TML part of its debts in the form of Eurotunnel shares or other similar certificates. Consortium members were prepared to help Eurotunnel to accept payment of a limited part of the money owing in that form."

Sir Alastair confirmed that such a proposition had been discussed conditionally between the two parties. Any debts had still to be established, however.

"That you have not yet done, and therefore your statement is less than proper," he wrote.

He added that whatever the proposal, it would first be put to Eurotunnel shareholders.

EC to hold sway over services contracts

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community trade ministers meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow are expected to agree controversial rules that will give Brussels the final say in disputes over services contracts awarded by water, energy, transport and telephone companies.

Under rules proposed by the commission, the companies, whether public or private, will have to put any services contracts out to tender, inviting offers from firms throughout the EC. Previously these "utilities" have enjoyed exemptions from EC competition laws and many have awarded services contracts, valued at up to 15 per cent of the Community's GDP, to domestic companies and their own subsidiaries only.

But under the new rules, if, for example, the European Commission discovers British Telecom is buying insurance from a London insurer when it could obtain the same contract more cheaply from a German firm, the EC could step in and make BT buy the German product.

The new rules, designed to break up the monopolistic nature of state sectors — especially large ones such as France's — could come under fire at a time when the commission is desperately promoting the concept of

subsidiarity, leaving member states to do what is best done at a national or local level.

But British officials point out that Britain, with a developed services sector, especially in finance, should benefit from the rules. As well as financial products such as insurance, services being put out to tender could vary from architectural designs to cleaning contracts.

The new rules may come under fire from third countries, as they are likely to mirror similar public procurement rules for hardware products passed by EC trade ministers last year.

Under a "buy Europe" clause in these rules, utilities can prefer European bids that are no more than 3 per cent more expensive than the best bid from a third country. Washington has threatened to take trade retaliation over the rules, but the EC has pointed out that the "Buy American Act" dictates that public sector bids from EC firms have to be at least 25 per cent lower than their American rivals' to stand any chance of acceptance.

The hardware rules, like those for services, also invite intervention from Brussels. The threshold for putting a contract out to offer will be 200,000 Ecu.

Tetra Pak could open more local plants in future

CIS seeks western co-operation to beat famine

By DEREK HARRIS

FORMER Russian diplomat, an American running two restaurants in Moscow and a professor at London's University College joined forces yesterday with Sweden's Tetra Pak, the laminated paper packaging manufacturer, to explore the disastrous problems of food distribution in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The volumes produced could feed the population if the losses from lack of distribution systems, a dearth of refrigeration facilities and theft were not so high. Yet

things are so bad in some areas that famine is a real threat, said Aleksey Pokrovov, a former career diplomat turned journalist, told a London seminar. Most of the family budget goes on food yet protein consumption is falling. The average day's food supply has dropped by a fifth and is insufficient even for an 11-year-old, he said.

In the CIS, up to 30 per cent of cereals produced do not reach the consumer while half the vegetables are wasted, said David Pearce, Professor of Economics. He stressed the importance of proper packaging to cut food losses and

prevent foodborne disease. For Mr Pokrovov the route to easing the country's food problems is co-operation with western companies because of the desperate shortage of modern food processing equipment. Using western equipment under licence would be the fastest means of bringing help, he said.

Jeffrey Zeiger, who opened his first American restaurant in Moscow in 1985, believes it is possible to do business in Russia and even to make a profit. But it means learning the system. That was why it was important to take a Russian partner, he said. "It was

my Russian partner who found the non-state markets out of town where regular supplies could be bought."

He kept two books, one for rouble transactions and the other for foreign currency, notably dollars. With rouble customers he would cover his basic costs but for foreign tourists the profit margin was substantial to keep the business overall in the black.

Tetra Pak, whose Alfa Laval subsidiary makes food processing equipment, has been providing systems in Russia for 30 years but in the past two years has launched joint ventures, including factories pro-

ducing packaged juices and frozen fruit and vegetables. Others manufacture Tetra Pak packaging materials.

Teresa Pressa, director of external and environmental affairs, said Tetra Pak intended to maintain its commitments in the CIS. Separate sales offices have just been set up in Moscow, St Petersburg and in Kiev, Ukraine.

She said: "There are no plans for additional plants at present but that is a possibility in the future. We believe there is a bright future for food distribution in the former Soviet Union — and without importing food."

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES TES

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Power market reform is the key to successful coal privatisation

Colin Robinson says
that a review of
the electricity
generating industry
is vital to make
the energy market work



Powerhouse for competition: Colin Robinson, editorial director of the Institute of Economic Affairs

Privatisation of British utilities, which was aimed ostensibly at depoliticising decisions, has paradoxically achieved mainly political ends so far. It raised substantial revenues for government and widened, but did not deepen, share ownership. Introducing competition into product markets had low priority because it conflicted with political objectives and would have upset such powerful pressure groups as the managements of the corporations concerned.

Instead of allowing competition to protect consumers in those parts of the market it could have reached, regulators were installed. A competitive market gives consumers a choice of suppliers, creating new information and stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship in ways price and profit regulation cannot hope to emulate. Industry regulators have been working hard to liberalise markets. Liberalising via regulation, though politically convenient, is, however, slow and uncertain whereas in the energy sector, speedy action was needed to avoid the replacement of old monopolies with new ones.

For many years, energy consumers and taxpayers had faced large (if not explicit) bills for the energy policies of successive postwar governments. British coal and nuclear power were heavily protected from home and overseas competitors; in gas, a state monopoly of foreign trade banned exports and limited imports to small quantities channelled through the state gas corporation. Privatisation disturbed such policies. Electricity privatisation brought the costs of protection into the open. As a result, support for coal diminished; plans to build more nuclear plants were suspended, though nuclear power is still subsidised; the government allowed gas to be used for electricity generation and is now beginning to free overseas trade in gas.

Regrettably, behind the scenes intervention still exists. Except in gas, there is still little sign of increased competition. Despite an illiberal privatisation scheme, subsequent efforts by Sir James McKinnon and the competition authorities are creating a gas market in which there should be more competition for larger consumers. A separate pipeline and storage company, though still within British Gas, is being set up; BG is to reduce its share of the industrial and commercial market to about 60 per cent and the "franchise market" will be limited to consumers of 2,500 therms a year, instead of 25,000. Even so, it is taking many years to establish a market that could have started in 1986, had the government accepted proposals made at the time.

In electricity and coal, serious problems abound, mainly because

electricity privatisation failed to establish competition in generation. The initial structure was monopolistic. National Power and PowerGen—organisations with the same managerial origin and considerable knowledge of each other's costs—had little incentive to compete vigorously. Electricity demand is insensitive to price in the short term, so tacit collusion is likely to be profitable.

The main hope for consumers was entry by newcomers and increased imports from France and Scotland. There was a promising initial surge of entry by companies with gas-fired plant equivalent to at least 10 per cent of existing capacity, though most have tied themselves to members of the industry so their degree of independence is uncertain. Equally uncertain is whether there will be more entrants in the foreseeable future, given likely excess capacity.

Domination of this market by two large generators left the British coal industry—which makes more than three quarters of its sales to power stations—in difficulties. The generators wanted to reduce the dependence on British coal forced on the former Central Electricity Generating Board by successive British governments. Their initial plan mixes were far from what they desired and were probably incapable of permitting

them to meet EC sulphur emission standards. So they joined the rush for gas, started to build coal import facilities and agreed to fit flue gas desulphurisation to about eight gigawatts of existing coal-fired plant.

This peculiar new market, in which a monopoly buyer has been replaced by a duopoly with greater freedom to choose fuels, is unlikely to produce improved combinations of prices and outputs in either the coal or electricity supply industries. There is nothing optimal about the size of the British coal industry that is likely to emerge, nor about the price of coal to power generation. Nor are electricity prices being determined in convincingly more competitive conditions than previously: industrial consumers complain that electricity suppliers are virtually alone in being able to force higher prices on them when they are struggling with recession.

The Office of Electricity Regulation is being drawn into regulating generation, which, if competitive, would not need regulation. In the coal contract negotiations, the government evidently thinks the market is so imperfect that it is interfering virtually as much as in the days of the CEBG and "joint understandings". Symptomatic of the unsatisfactory

state of the coal and electricity markets is the debate about whether National Power and PowerGen should be investing so much in gas-fired plant—or whether they should continue to operate coal plants with an apparently low avoidable cost. In a competitive market, there would be no such debate. Generators would invest in new plant only if they believed that the avoidable costs of the new plant (capital and operating) would be less than the avoidable costs of the old plant (operating plus any incremental capital) and they would supply at prices close to avoidable cost in times of surplus capacity rather than shut down plant. The generators are suspected of building gas-fired plant to pre-empt market entry, because they appear to be able to manipulate prices or volumes.

What is to be done? The counsel of despair is that the post-privatisation structure of the electricity supply industry must be taken as given. Eventually, competition will appear in electricity supply. In the meantime, British Coal will have to be privatised either whole or, as opinion now seems to favour, with a minimal split into perhaps two parts: any finer split would mean that the power of the generators would wreck the industry. Such views should be disregarded. Similar arguments were heard about

gas but after years of unsuccessful attempts to coax an unwilling monopoly to behave competitively, the structure of the gas industry is being changed fundamentally. Moreover, any observer of the energy market knows that, as in the case of coal privatisation, the unthinkable turns rapidly into the merely politically impossible and equally rapidly appears on the political agenda.

Leaving British Coal intact on privatisation would compound the errors of electricity privatisation, retaining a monopoly in the one energy industry that has no natural monopoly characteristics. If the market power of the duopolists is as great as government must believe—hence its interference in the coal contract negotiations—then that power should be reduced by break-up or other means. If the generators can dominate the coal industry, they must also have substantial market power relative to new generators and consumers.

A common fear is that the British coal industry would be decimated if it were divided. If that were true, it would demonstrate the huge costs incurred in supporting the industry at its recent size. More likely, however, the industry would be bigger than suggested by nonsensical projections that assume its costs would remain unaltered in much more competitive conditions. With the stimulus of more competition, coal should be able to improve on recent productivity gains. Moreover, generators in a competitive industry would pay a premium for coal from indigenous suppliers with low transport costs. They would offer protection against exchange-rate fluctuations and avoid the generators moving on a large scale into the limited world coal market, possibly raising prices against themselves.

The objective towards which policy should be working is to create privatised coal and electricity supply industries, within each of which there is rivalry among actual and potential suppliers. Given the states of the gas and oil markets, there would then be significant competition throughout the energy sector.

Contrast that with what exists. The government's instinct is correct: the electricity and coal markets are so monopolised that they do not produce the right signals. Its policy of intervening as before, in the belief that it knows what the outcome should be, is misguided. Presumably, it intends to persuade the generators to take more British coal than they would wish and to pay some premium for it. Yet the government has no means of knowing what either the quantities or the premium should be.

Government should recognise that the root of most problems in today's energy market is the uncompetitive nature of electricity generation. A political fix, forcing the generators to take British coal, is not the answer. To bring benefits to consumers and allow a sensible form of coal privatisation, the electricity market should be liberalised in a way the government failed to do first time round. The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey and Editorial Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Vetting Brussels over competition

Britain's competition authorities have already become disillusioned with the way Brussels is running its end of the merger-vetting process. Having spent many years establishing the independence first of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and then of the Office of Fair Trading, they have found that by transferring most big mergers to European Community level, they have let the process revert to the political dark ages. The detailed work done for the competition commissioner may be competent—that has not yet been fully tested—but the outcome is then subject to a collective decision by EC commissioners and is prey to every conceivable interest group. Rulings may be determined more by skill in lobbying than objective judgment, especially as the final decision is not subject to control, as is a minister's discretion in Britain.

This is not merely a theoretical flaw. Interference was evident in the messy continental regional aircraft manufacturing merger where national industrial policies were in direct conflict with competition tests. In the recent international Perrier bottled water case, the French government has advised the EC competition authorities not to interfere in deals worked out at national level.

Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the MMC, reinforced in forensic detail yesterday the objections made by Sir Gordon Borrie, the retiring director general of fair trading. He also found an ally in Germany, where the cartel office, though fashioned on American rather than British lines, relies on independence. Sir Sydney did not call for Bundesbank-style isolation, but merely asked that the decision-making process should be transparent and that reports of inquiries should be published, so that an independent body could reach its conclusion on the simple tests of competition. It would then be up to commissioners, or some other political judges, to override that test if they wanted and explain their reasons. Such reforms are needed before the potentially corrupt EC system is set in the concrete of its own vested interest.

Filling the gap

The Treasury's efforts to sell to third parties some £5 billion of debt owed to it by BT, the electricity distributors and other privatised industries, some of which is not repayable until the next century, can be seen as a good housekeeper's tidying up exercise, familiar on the financial markets as securitisation. The overture could, less charitably, also be seen as a sign of impending panic over the immediate future of the government's finances.

In the first two months of the financial year, the public sector borrowing requirement rose from £6.7 billion a year ago to about £8 billion this time, excluding privatisation proceeds. That need not cause worry yet, since the PSBR for the year is forecast to double to a net £28 billion. That assumed, however, that the economy would grow by 1 per cent in the calendar year, a forecast the Treasury has already mentally consigned to the waste paper. Meanwhile, the fall in underlying inflation looks on target. Government revenue was 2.5 per cent down in April and May against the same months last year and the shortfall could get worse.

Since the projected £28 billion deficit was already near the knuckle for international financial markets, the government may therefore need any money it can get and is sensible to plan ahead. Selling private company debts to the government is only another form of funding but would count as negative public spending and keep the PSBR figure down. Never mind that such moves could upset the companies own carefully calculated financing plans and even raise the cost of finance to them by the odd fraction that finance directors sweat over.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Back in the Kenwood mix

THE flotation of Kenwood during the next fortnight with a likely stock market value of about £100 million—today is impact day—has shed a spotlight on the man who founded the business 45 years ago, Kenneth Wood. Living quietly in Hampshire since he sold the business for £10 million to Thorn EMI in 1968, and struggling to re-assert his golf handicap from 19 to 15, Wood, 75, a colourful character who joined the merchant navy at 14, trained as an electrical engineer and became one of Britain's youngest millionaires at 38, is no stranger to publicity. In 1965, he made headlines when he was cited in the divorce of former beauty queen Patricia Benney by her husband, the director of a West End fashion house. He was forced to pay £1,000 damages to Leonard Benney. Now married to Patricia Wood, Wood regains the day he sold Kenwood to Thorn and reveals that he will be subscribing to a "reasonable number" of Kenwood shares. "It is 20 per cent an emotional decision but I do think the company has potential," he says. "I have great respect for what Tim Parker, the chief executive, is doing. Thorn just let it drift. Parker has revamped it into the type of company it was in the old days."

Songs for Sign

ANNALY House, a self-help residence for young deaf people that is being built in a deconsecrated church in



"I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT MEANT NO PARKING"

Wandsworth, and named after the late Lord Annaly, a former private client partner at Greenwell Montagu, is to be the sole beneficiary of a concert of French and Persian songs being given by Shusha Guppy at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, on Sunday. Annaly and his wife Beverley helped found the charity Sign, which is behind the Annaly House project, and both have been friends of Iranian-born Guppy for many years, since her days as an intellectual in Paris in the 1960s. Guppy's son Darius was the best man at the then Viscount Althorp when he married Victoria Lockwood, and Althorp, now Earl Spencer, is a cousin of Annaly's. Tickets are on sale at £15 each via the box office on 071-3594404.

AFTER all those appropriate names, an inappropriate one at last. An article about aeroplanes of the future, published in the current edition of High

Out of India

PETER Grant, chairman of Sun Life, has many Indian connections, but it is not entirely clear which prompted his appearance at the Indian High Commission in the Aldwych last week. Grant's great-great-grandfather was chief justice in Bengal and his great-great-grandfather was lieutenant governor of Bengal in the 1860s. He insists that last week's reception was, however, to mark a joint venture between Sun Life and the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India whereby the two will market life assurance products to the estimated one million Indians resident in Britain. Grant had little direct contact with India until four years ago, when he was introduced to the country by PR man Tony Good. As chairman of Cox & Kings, the UK's largest tour operator to India, Good has many Indian connections of his own and it was through these that Grant became an unofficial adviser to the Tata Group, India's largest industrial group, and eventually picked up the odd contract in life assurance too. Grant believes the time is ripe to further Indian links. "The determination with the prime minister, Narasimha Rao, has pursued the economic liberalisation started by Rajiv Gandhi is very encouraging," Grant says.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Reality of rate cutting policy

From Mr M.P. Gould
Sir, We are to believe that the government is totally unaware as to their impotence in trying to lower the true interest burden experienced by most medium and small businesses? As a matter of policy, all the major banks are moving away from base rate linked personal and business facilities, through to a system euphemistically termed managed rates. Ironically, the recession and consequent reduction in competition in lending has permitted this major structural change to be introduced, thus delaying the fall in the true cost of borrowing. Managed rates have, according to their advocates, the ability to smooth out what might otherwise be thought of as too frequent a change in base rate linked interest charges. Primarily it is designed to benefit the major banks by effectively introducing a much wider margin than previously experienced and at the same time maintaining a brake on the downward trend in interest rates. I single out no particular bank as I believe all are moving in this same direction. But as an example, it is interesting to note that the finest rate currently available from Lloyds is 1.12% per month, equivalent to an APR of 14.3%. Such a rate would, it seems, be applied to overdraft facilities granted to customers who might be generally termed "special" and who, I would suggest, would previously have enjoyed a base rate linked facility at perhaps 1.75-2.5% over base. It does not take a mathematical genius to work out that the bank has effectively doubled its margin in circumstances where the government of the day is encouraging a downward trend in interest rates. Impudent or purely ignorant? Yours faithfully, M.P. GOULD, Chartered Accountant, Johnston House, Woodford Green, Essex.

Better representation for pensioner groups

From Mr Barry Bryson
Sir, There has recently been considerable publicity on the problems of pensioners and their inability to obtain representation on the very Boards of Trustees of pension funds set up for their benefit. I am the secretary of a group of pensioners of a British company which we formed a year ago to represent the interests of our members. We are aware of the formation of large groups of pensioners such as the Imperial Tobacco Action Committee (IMPAC) and now British Airways Pensioners Associ-

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No redundancies as network of more modern facilities is created

British Gas shuts one showroom in ten

By RODNEY HOBSON

ONE out of every ten gas showrooms is to close this year, as part of a British Gas policy to concentrate on larger showrooms with a wider range of products.

British Gas says it had 659 showrooms at the start of the year. Some have already been closed and by December, 64 will have gone. British Gas says they are all small ones employing up to three staff.

It declines to give a regional breakdown of closures. However, industry sources say the closures are spread throughout the country. They say that Wales will be particularly affected; up to half the showrooms are to close.

About a quarter of the outlets south-east of London are also understood to be earmarked for closure.

A British Gas spokeswoman said: "Our aim is to operate a network of modern showrooms, providing our customers with the best in gas appliance retailing, account payment facilities and a comprehensive range of customer services and advice."

She added that the company's showrooms operated in a

"dynamic environment" and British Gas had to respond to trends. "In appliance retailing, customers expect to find a wide range and choice of products in modern retail centres."

British Gas claims customers are taking advantage of account payment plans. Coupled with increased use of bank, building society and Giro bank payments, this is reducing the level of account payments insurance.

The spokeswoman added: "The operation of our showrooms with well trained staff, using modern computer technology, is a costly activity. It is necessary to keep showrooms under review and to close smaller, uneconomic showrooms if we are to invest in the opening of new showrooms and modernisation of existing ones."

She cited the showroom at the new Meadowhall shopping centre, in Sheffield, as an example of a modern outlet. Heavy expenditure on providing a better service has been made at Wolverhampton, Portsmouth, Eastbourne, Harrogate and the Teesside

retail park. British Gas says that all staff involved have been redeployed or have retired and that there have been no redundancies.

The spokeswoman said: "We recognise that any showroom closure is likely to cause some hardship and whenever a showroom is closed we will normally provide alternative local account payment facilities unless there is a nearby alternative showroom."

Well over 80 per cent of the company's customers were within five miles of a showroom.

Ofgas, the industry regulator, said British Gas was not obliged to inform it of showroom closures.

The Gas Consumers Council also said it would not expect to be informed. A spokeswoman said the council's job was to investigate complaints; it would therefore not become involved unless there were complaints about closures from members of the public.

An industry source claimed that British Gas was spreading the closures over the year to minimise publicity.



Something cooking: new showrooms will demonstrate a greater range of goods

Oversupply about to clip the wings of travel industry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S travel industry is awaiting the first big company crash of the year. The inevitability of the impending collapse is accepted in every boardroom as directors of tour operators review statistics that prove conclusively that supply of package holidays far outstrips demand.

Their main concern is to ensure that they are not the first to call in the receiver, who is hovering in the wings waiting to sort out the industry's self-inflicted mess.

After the Gulf war, which brought holidays and foreign travel almost to a complete halt, the industry's boardrooms were awash with optimism. The British public, they said, would want to catch up by taking holidays this year. The recession, they believed, would soon end, adding to the latent demand, the spare capacity arising from the collapse of International Leisure Group would give them greater scope for expansion and a Tory election victory would provide the final boost.

Individually, the travel groups applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for licences to provide 13.5 million holidays this year, an increase of 30 per cent on the last 12 months. Some companies were so optimistic that they more than doubled the number of holidays on offer. Aspro Travel, for example, which had 107,000 packages on

offer last year increased the number in its brochures to 334,000. Avro received CAA approval for 431,000 (93,000) and Airtrav for 1,750,000 (1,271,000).

To soak up this additional capacity, British holiday-makers would have had to have booked about 30 per cent more holidays by now than they had by the same time last year. In fact, the growth has hardly been more than 5 per cent. Some tour operators blame the current problems on Thomson Holidays, the market leader, which made it clear that it would sell all its 3.03 million holidays at whatever price it was forced to accept. This, said the critics, would mean customers delaying bookings in the hope of finding a cheap bargain.

Undeterred, Thomson embarked on one of the most aggressive price cutting drives ever seen. Smaller companies were forced to follow suit, cutting prices, consolidating flights and trying to pass on their financial problems to the charter airlines. With the summer peak almost on us, there are 1 million holidays still unsold.

In response, smaller companies have cut staff and removed brochures from sale. Meanwhile, bills for charter seats and hotel beds are having to be paid. The chatter of collapsing dreams is expected at any moment.

Bankruptcy filings surge in US

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

BANKRUPTCIES reached a record in the first quarter of this year, with 252,733 businesses and individuals seeking protection from creditors, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute.

The surge reflects the difficulties in surviving a prolonged recession by those heavily indebted after the credit bonanza of the Eighties, economists said.

"We have had three years of very, very sluggish growth surrounded by periods of recession, so it is very difficult to survive," said Jack Albertine, of Albertine Enterprises, an economic forecasting firm. Bankruptcy filings in federal courts totalled 252,733 between January and March, up 9.5 per cent on the same period a year ago, the institute said.

Individual bankruptcies rose the quickest, up 9.8 per cent against a 5.3 per cent increase for businesses. They continued to account for about 92 per cent of the filings in the first quarter, the institute said. Economists said the surge was hardly surprising since unemployment was at an eight-year high of 7.5 per cent.

Bankruptcy trends usually come after a change in the overall economy, but a surge this late in the business cycle is troublesome, said Eileen Appelbaum, associate director at the Economic Policy Institute. Figures show the economy is growing after the recession that began in 1990.

Foster's rejects merger

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

FOSTER'S Brewing has rejected a merger proposal from SA Brewing Holdings (SABH). Nobby Clark, Foster's chairman, said: "On balance, we do not believe the proposal would be advantageous for our shareholders."

The Foster's strategy was to become a single-purpose brewing company. Mr Clark said, and SABH's proposal did not offer benefits that justified reversing the strategy. "Foster's believes the non-beer businesses of SABH are incompatible with the current Foster's businesses and that the SABH proposal offers minimal synergies, while exposing Foster's to substantial downsides with continued instability, costs and implementation issues," he said.

SA Brewing, a beverages and manufacturing company, announced a plan in May to merge with Foster's by means of a cashless share swap, creating a company with assets of about A\$10.6 billion (£4.3 billion).

After the announcement, S&P-Australian Ratings placed the credit rating of Foster's on "creditwatch (developing)".

"While Foster's is sound, with a strong cash flow," Mr Clark said, "we recognise the benefits that would flow from a better credit-rating. Options to address this are being carefully examined."

Foster's declined to comment on a newspaper report yesterday that it planned an A\$1 billion rights issue.

Economists cautious on growth in Japan

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S economy resumed its expansion in the first quarter of this year, but economists said it did not signal a real recovery yet.

Temporary and seasonal factors boosted gross national product but the tone was weak, they said. "The latest GNP data don't warrant optimism," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute.

GNP, the total output of goods and services, rose a real annualised 4.3 per cent in January-March, after a revised 0.3 per cent contraction in October-December.

Quarter-on-quarter, GNP rose an inflation-adjusted 1.1 per cent in January-March, after a revised 0.1 per cent in October-December, the government's economic planning agency (EPA) said. Negative growth in the previous quarter was the first in two-and-a-half years.

"The official spin being put on the numbers is that things look pretty good, but these numbers don't reveal the reality of the situation, which is that the economy is sliding into recession," said Kenneth Curtis, economist at Deutsche Bank.

Analysts said growth, espe-

cially in consumer sales, was inflated by February's extra day. Consumer spending rose an annualised 3.4 per cent after a 0.4 per cent gain the previous quarter.

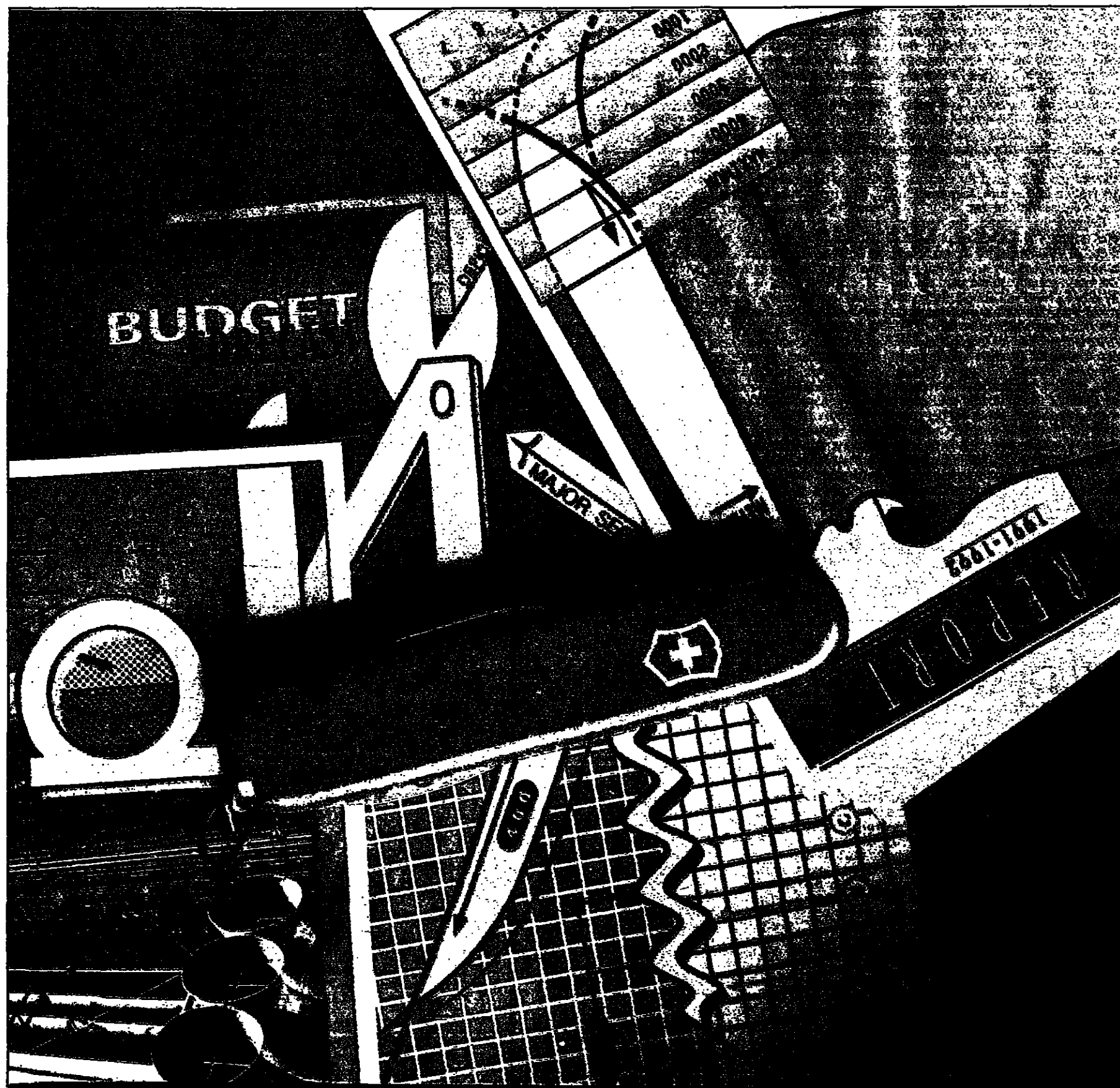
Companies also rushed to repatriate profits from overseas affiliates before book-closing at the end of March to make up for poor earnings at home, economists said.

Government inventories also recorded an extraordinary rise because of a large purchase of rice by the government during the quarter, economists said. "If we exclude all those extraordinary factors, GNP would have risen only by an annualised 1.5 per cent, rather than 4.3 per cent," Mr Takagi of Fuji Research said.

The EPA also said GNP rose a real 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1991-2, ended March 31, falling short of the government's forecast 3.7 per cent growth for the year and slowing from 5.5 per cent the previous year.

Shunji Fukinbara, the EPA vice-minister, said the gap between the official forecast and the actual figure was not too significant. "We do not think there is a big gap between 3.7 and 3.5 per cent."

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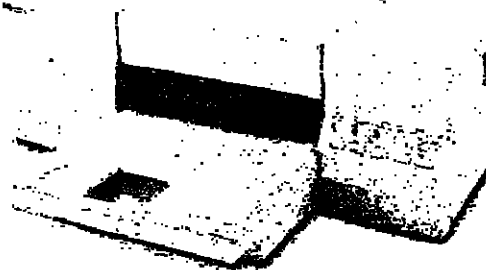
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Ibuleve in newspapers.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Abbey Natl	782	Coats Vyla	1,100	Lloyds Bk	567	Ryl Bk Scot	2,800	FTSE 100	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
Abbey Lyons	795	CN Union	448	M&P Cardin	560	Sainsbury	2,500	Jun 92	2501.0	2620.0	2601.0	2603.0	3089	
Anglian W	795	CP	330	MEPC	539	St James	2,500	Sep 92	2641.0	2699.0	2640.0	2641.0	3180	
Argyl Co	900	Eng China C	658	Marlts Sp	1,500	Scott Power	1,800	Jun 92	89.94	89.96	89.95	89.96	6996	
Argy Wign	977	Entpr Clr	277	Midst Bk	1,100	Sears	3,200	Sep 92	90.17	90.25	90.17	90.23	18093	
AS Foods	1,116	Euroturn I	254	NFC	609	Stn Trans	356	Dec 92	90.47	90.54	90.47	90.53	4799	
B&B	1,700	Financ	3,400	Nat Bk	1,500	SWB	2,500							
BAT Inds	2,100	Fone	1,200	Nat Power	2,600	Sieba	429							
BEC	4,200	GRE	1,700	Nth Wg W	992	SMK Bch	555							
BOT	3,800	GUS A	265	Nth Wg W	992	Smith Kbk	3,300							
BRT	1,800	Gen	400	P&O	400	Stn Trans	356							
BTR	1,800	Gen Elec	4,200	Peatson	391	Stn Alliance	2,000							
Bk of Scot	632	Glaxo	1,800	Pillington	2,700	TSB	4,600							
Burdays	2,700	Grand Met	2,800	PowerGen	333	Tate & Lyle	2,400							
Burys	1,100	Harland	1,100	Prudential	1,200	Thames W	700							
Bk Circle	900	Hanson	7,100	RMC	323	Thames W	700							
Boots	2,000	Hillside	540	RTZ	922	Tren EMU	866							
Bowater	2,300	IC	480	Rock	611	Tomkins	611							
Brc Aero	2,200	Inchcape	937	Rockfz Csl	937	Unilever	2,700							
Brc Airways	8,300	Kingfisher	1,100	Redland	1,000	Utl Bsc	2,400							
Brc Gas	2,800	LASMO	4,500	Reed Ind	862	Vodafone	8,900							
Brc Int	4,000	Landsec	403	Welsh	783	Welsh	783							
Brc Wile	4,500	Land Secs	565	Whitb'd	1,100	Wilde Hm	937							
Cable Wire	2,200	Laporte	241	Royal Roys	1,200									

New York (midday)					Russels				
Dow Jones	3357.57 (+2.67)	S&P Composite	410.86 (+0.57)	Teluge	5882.61 (-16.56)	Paris: CAC	526.44 (-0.71)	Zurich: SKA Gen	477.2 (+3.7)
Nikkei Av'ge	16953.53 (+0.30)	London:							
Hong Kong:	5846.75 (+27.68)	FT A All-Share	1263.20 (+8.94)	FT 500	1423.89 (+10.00)	FT Gold Mines	105.3 (-1.0)	FT Fixed Interest	104.37 (-0.05)
FTSE Euro 100	1165.38 (+5.63)	Amsterdam:		CBS Tendency	128.8 (+0.4)	Bargains	21353	SEAQ Volume	391.0m
Sydney:	1639.4 (-7.6)	Frankfurt: DAX	1779.10 (+5.20)						
RANKING OPTIONS									
First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement						
Jan 8	Jan 9	September 3	September 14						

Call options were taken out on 16/6/92: BPL, Cabera Estates, Cossin, Exp Co

FTSE 100	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
Previous open interest: 42346	Jun 92	2501.0	2620.0	2601.0	2603.0	3089
Three Month Sterling	Sep 92	89.94	89.96	89.95	89.96	6996
Previous open interest: 220864	Dec 92	90.17	90.25	90.17	90.23	18093
	Dec 92	90.47	90.54	90.47	90.53	4799
Three Mth Eurodollar	Sep 92	95.83	95.85	95.81	95.84	911
Previous open interest: 23432	Dec 92	95.21	95.22	95.21	95.23	364
Three Mth Euro DM	Sep 92	90.44	90.44	90.42	90.44	19971
Previous open interest: 157540	Dec 92	90.72	90.74	90.71	90.73	1262
US Treasury Bond	Jun 92	99.25	100.01	99.15	100.00	739
Previous open interest: 1846	Sep 92	99.25	99.23	99.12	99.23	1368
Long Gilt	Jun 92	97.15	97.23	97.12	97.23	3682
Previous open interest: 66290	Sep 92	97.18	97.30	97.18	97.29	29235
Japanese Govt Bond	Sep 92	101.94	101.96	101.90	101.96	94
	Dec 92	101.94	101.96	101.90	101.96	94
German Govt Bond	Sep 92	88.04	88.16	88.02	88.14	33411
Previous open interest: 102501	Dec 92	88.44	88.48	88.44	88.49	13
Three month ECU	Sep 92	89.68	89.73	89.66	89.74	766
Previous open interest: 7779	Dec 92	89.92	90.00	89.92	90.03	361
Euro Swiss Franc	Sep 92	91.31	91.36	91.27	91.36	7671
Previous open interest: 38188	Dec 92	91.71	91.76	91.67	91.76	882

Mkt Rates for June 16	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Brexit	3.2819-3.2917	3.2886-3.2917	1-wpr	1-wpr
Brunssels	59.94-60.16	60.05-60.16	4-wpr	4-wpr
Copenhagen	11.2184-11.2566	11.2432-11.2566	1-weds	3-weds
Dublin	2.9136-2.9158	2.9149-2.9158	4-wpr	4-wpr
Frankfurt	2.9136-2.9158	2.9149-2.9158	4-wpr	4-wpr
Lisbon	241.06-243.34	242.32-243.34	112-100w	125-100w
London	222.84-223.20	222.84-223.20	7-weds	7-weds
Madrid	222.84-223.20	222.84-223.20	7-weds	7-weds
Montréal	2.2128-2.2244	2.2222-2.2244	0.84-0.87	1.55-1.48pr
New York	8.8500-1.8597	8.8590-1.8597	0.01-1.00pr	2.75-2.79pr
Osaka	1.9814-1.9817	1.9814-1.9817	4-weds	4-weds
Paris	9.8114-9.8309	9.8114-9.8309	4-weds	4-weds
Stockholm	10.5288-10.5557	10.5424-10.5557	1-weds	3-weds
Tokyo	12.3414-12.3478	12.3414-12.3478	4-weds	4-weds
Zurich	20.4980-20.5046	20.5382-20.5046	1-wpr	2-wpr
Vienna	2.6184-2.6335	2.6184-2.6335	4-wpr	4-wpr
Source: Eurol			Previous 1-wpr	Discount 3-wpr

OTHER STERLING RATES		FX 3 AR SPOT MATERS	
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Shares in technical rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 15. Dealings on June 26. Settlement day June 29. Settlement day July 6. Share prices are based on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Anglo American	Property	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Barclays Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
19	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
21	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
22	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
35	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
36	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
37	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
38	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
39	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
40	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
41	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
42	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
43	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
44	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
45	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
46	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
48	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
49	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
50	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
51	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
52	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
53	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
54	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
55	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
56	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
57	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
58	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
59	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
60	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
61	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
62	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
63	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
64	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
65	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
66	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
67	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
68	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
69	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
70	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
71	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
72	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
73	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
74	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
75	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
76	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
77	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
78	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
79	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
80	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
81	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
82	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
83	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
84	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
85	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
86	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
87	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
88	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
89	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
90	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
91	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
92	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
93	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
94	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
95	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
96	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
97	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
98	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
99	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
100	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
101	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
102	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
103	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
104	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
105	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
106	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
107	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
108	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
109	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
110	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
111	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
112	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
113	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
114	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
115	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
116	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
117	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
118	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
119	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
120	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
121	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
122	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
123	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
124	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
125	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
126	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
127	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
128	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
129	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
130	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
131	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
132	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
133	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
134	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
135	British Petroleum	Oil	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
136	British Water	Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
137	British Gas	Gas	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
138	British Steel	Steel	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
139	British Airways	Transport	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
140	British Telecom	Telecom	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Weekly Dividend

Please take into account any minus signs

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992 High Low Company Price Div Yld P/E

1	Barclays Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	HSBC Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	London City	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Midland Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	NatWest Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Paragon Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Prudential	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Royal Bank	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Santander	Banking	100.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Starting today is a conference devoted to an industry whose steady growth continues to defy the recession. Derek Harris reports



Marilyn Standley: Longman's new building will support company development

A workplace watershed

In a watershed year Britain's facilities management industry, already worth probably at least £100 million a year, is looking for sustained growth rates as industry and commerce painfully pull out of recession.

Recession itself helped boost the industry as business sought ways to improve efficiency. A switch to the use of outside professionals in facilities management, if the whole range of services for an enterprise are involved, can produce claimed savings of a fifth or more.

One harbinger of continued growth prospects is the annual facilities management conference allied to the Premises and Facilities Management Exhibition which opens at London Olympia today. With more than 120 exhibitors and at the conference an attendance of 450 expected, the event, the third annual one to be held, is double the size and scope of that in the previous year.

Ken Trench, head of Magnet Events, which organises the exhibition and conference, said: "We have seen a doubling each year so far and it looks as if growth will continue."

An element is likely to be the increasing flow of EC legislation affecting services to companies, especially in the health and safety sector, where the latest requirements coming through include action to limit repetitive strain injury

(RSI) for those using VDU keyboards and screens.

Another growth indication has been the uplift in the membership of the Association of Facilities Managers, a key professional organisation in the industry whose membership is expected to rise from 1,300 to approaching 3,000 during this year.

Providing facilities from commercial and industrial buildings to office equipment and meals at the workplace, while maintaining every service so that it will continue to function efficiently, is a vast industry whose size has been variously estimated at from £18 billion in annual sales to £30 billion.

There have been suggestions that about a fifth of the market is now represented by contracting-out in one form or another but the figure is disputed. The sector is comparatively new and statistical research is scant. In the United States market it is estimated that 40 per cent of work is contracted out.

The industry operates at three levels. The broadest is concerned with strategy, dealing with questions such as those of location. It may be a question of opting either for a single large headquarters or a split of buildings. It might raise the issue of relocation from city to smaller town,

typically London to the regions. The state of the property market and relative rent levels will be crucial elements to be weighed. Consultants and chartered surveyors typically deal with these broader issues.

The project level is a finer focus. At this stage architects are drawing up various alternative plans with facilities management consultants able to provide relevant input.

When the relative merits of either refurbishing an older building or creating a new one are being weighed a factor which increasingly looms

'We are still going to see substantial growth coming along now that more companies are seeing the results'

large is the range of technologies, with their hardware, that the business will demand now and in the future. Sometimes older buildings cannot easily cope with the needs of the modern service business whose offices will be crisscrossed with electronic equipment.

Environmentally friendly buildings are beginning to be required. Longman, the international publishing company, which moved its headquarters

to Harlow in Essex in the 1960s, has taken a hard look at this one. Project director Marilyn Standley, who is a facilities manager, faced the problem that since the Essex move Longman had tripled in size and in addition to Harlow had half a dozen sites in London and around the South-east. It has all the technological needs of present-day book and other publishing.

The result is a £30 million development not far from the Harlow site which will not have air conditioning. The energy needed to run the building is strictly limited and the use of modern building materials allied to natural ventilation is planned.

It is expected to improve communications between the various Longman publishing businesses and give flexibility while providing an attractive environment. Ms Standley says: "It should support the development of Longman into the next century."

Some facilities management companies list 50 or more services which can be provided. Key ones are catering, cleaning, security and building maintenance. Others range from linen services and library operation to waste management, gardening and landscaping, and providing a

properly run canteen. There are specialised areas like training centre management, medical and first-aid support and pest control.

Leaders of the industry are sanguine about its prospects. Peter Davies, commercial director of BET Contract Services, a subsidiary of the BET group and one of the biggest operators in facilities management, said: "The interest in facilities management as a technique to improve efficiency has doubled in the past year. That perhaps has partly been driven by the recession forcing businesses to seek out every possible efficiency, but we are still going to see substantial growth coming along now that more companies are seeing what results facilities management can produce."

Setting professional standards is seen as an essential element as the industry develops and is one of the main preoccupations of the Association of Facilities Managers.

John Crawshaw, the association's director, also underlines the need for facilities managers to set specifications clearly so that service providers are lined up to do the most effective job. "If the windows that get the dirtiest most quickly are not cleaned — even selectively — when they need to be," he points out, "the company's image may suffer when important clients call."

French tilt at services stronghold

While the United States has been the trail-blazer in international facilities management since the 1970s, the British services industry seems to have established itself as the sector's strong second force during the past decade.

But this positioning could be under threat, largely because of developments in Europe, Derek Harris writes.

Facilities management, which involves placing a single management on all the servicing elements in a company, are not buzz-words in continental Europe in the way they are in the UK and America.

Britain's No 2 positioning in international facilities management is under threat from the continentals

Holland, however, has followed the UK pattern, with a strong professional body for facilities managers.

The concept is catching on in Germany, where there is also a professional body, and to a lesser extent in France. In Spain, EC money is supporting some investigation into the sector, but generally the further south one goes in Europe the less the subject becomes a discrete activity.

There is, nevertheless, considerable contracting out in

Europe of services, such as catering, security and cleaning, on UK lines.

There is also a joker in the continental pack. In France and Germany, particularly, building maintenance engineering is a relatively highly developed sector, and this could set the scene for continental companies with their high level of expertise to move into what is likely to become a more dynamic market sector in the UK, says Andrew Rabeneck, who is vice-presi-

dent Europe for facilities management with Salomon Brothers International, the financial analysts and consultants.

One acquisition already points that way, involving Compagnie de Chauffage, the building maintenance engineering arm of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the French water company. About ten years ago it acquired Britain's AHS, a leading contract energy management company. Last November the French strengthened their UK

hand by acquiring the Emstar subsidiary of Shell UK, another key player in contract energy management.

AHS Emstar now has about 2,500 clients in the private and public sectors of business and an annual turnover approaching £100 million.

"I believe the French have spotted a big opening in the UK for buildings maintenance operations that are more management driven and responsive," Mr Rabeneck says.

The continental companies have cut their teeth on big public contracts, such as looking after combined heat and power plants for large public housing projects. Relationships between landlord and tenant in the UK have tended to be "feudal", Mr Rabeneck says. "In the United States the landlord does more for the tenant and looks after buildings rather than simply letting it off with a repairing lease for 15 years or more."

An influence in integrating facilities management in Germany could be the closer responsibility of a principal tenant of a building, who is likely, for instance, to run the building's catering as a whole to service all the tenants.

The Japanese have come late to bringing in facilities managers from outside, because their companies have been accustomed to running every aspect of their own affairs. "But it seems likely that, given the Japanese approach to business, we might well see some initiatives soon from their direction which could have international impact," Mr Rabeneck says.

They've got your number

Council work has been a blessing for one company



Christopher Chope, former roads minister: number plates earn revenue for both the Treasury and Capita

The rapid growth of the facilities management industry has produced many success stories, but few to match that of Capita, which has been able to move up to a full stock exchange listing after winning the unlikely security of the crown jewel (Rodney Hobson writes).

Like other facilities management companies, it has thrived in recession. Most of its clients are in the public sector, ranging from local authorities to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea and Television Licensing in Bristol.

John Jasper, managing director of Telecom Capita, the Oxford-based facilities management arm, says: "Recession seems to have passed local government by — they probably feel they have been in recession for so long now that it is the norm. They are looking to get more value for less spending on a continual basis."

Capita helps about two dozen authorities to send and chase bills. The starting point was rates and poll tax collection but Capita now helps with most financial functions.

Mr Jasper says: "We telephone people to remind them to pay and this has proved very successful. We have made contact with about 70 per cent

of non-payers and about half have made arrangements to pay."

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Mr Jasper says: "It has been a highly sophisticated telemarketing activity. The DVLA advertises the services and we have our computer linked in to Swansea. If a member of the public asks us for a number we make the sale and collect the money."

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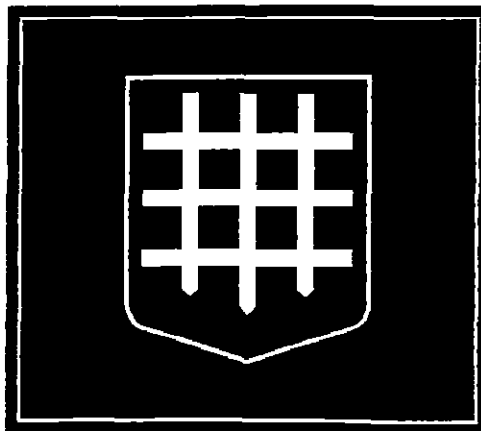
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DONALD COOPER



Underplayed and wonderfully sung: Felicity Palmer as the Countess

afflict Slavonic sopranos: she has done nothing better here. Sergei Leiferkus's Tomsy is effortlessly stylish, and his flying entry in the Pastoral, scattering gold petals with a smug grin, is a glorious moment. Felicity Palmer's Countess is all the better for being underplayed (and wonderfully sung). Dimitri Kharitonov is all a Yelesky should be, and Louise Winter sings Pauline exquisitely.

Yuri Maruskin's Herman is more controversial. His voice is ideal but his sense of pitch is highly personal, and you just have to take this on board as, say, extreme use of vocal colour. But his brooding, Byronic anti-hero, half automaton, half sunambule, carrying off melodramatic effect with total, indeed alarming conviction, is one of the most mesmerisingly terrifying interpretations I have seen in years.

RODNEY MILNES

OPERA

He falls apart, we are gripped

The Queen of Spades
Glyndebourne

THE first night of Graham Vick's new production of Tchaikovsky's opera, at Glyndebourne on Monday, was one of those occasions after which it would have been possible to argue about certain aspects of both the musical performance and the staging, but not about the overall impact: it was an absolutely thrilling evening.

At the beginning it seemed that this might be the first opera that one looked forward to hearing at a revival in the roomier new theatre: it is a huge score, and the London Philharmonic's wonderfully robust playing did hit you with sledgehammer force. Yet it is also a score in which woodwind plays a crucial role, charting as it does Herman's mental collapse, and in Glyndebourne's present acoustics wind-sound speaks with special pungency. As the evening progressed, plusses far outweighed arguable minuses.

Similarly, Andrew Davis's conducting sounded a little on the heavy side at first: the enormously tricky first act might have cohered more convincingly with a marginally brisker overall tempo. But again, the unshamed hot-bloodedness of his approach silenced all doubts, and by the end one resented ever more the smallest break between scenes as he propelled the drama onwards to its tragic conclusion.

In Richard Hudson's décor, furniture keeps reappearing in the oddest positions as the action — and Herman's mental disintegration — pro-

gresses. Any drama dealing with mental illness needs to convey the difference between the normal and the abnormal, and Hudson's juxtaposition of conventional historical costumes with a skew-whiff white box covered in scrawls that would be of great interest to Herman's psychoanalyst, was an interesting solution. Not only macabre but also beautiful things happen within the box: the Pastoral and the non-appearance of the Tsarina are good old-fashioned operatic spectacle of quite the best kind.

Whether or not there is a sufficient distinction between mad-Herman and sane-Herman, or between what either one of them might or might not see through his own or the audience's eyes, is again a matter for argument: the chorus (vintage this year) is behaving pretty peculiarly before the man even appears. But Vick's actual direction of the singers is brilliant beyond any argument, avoiding cliché and merciless in its pursuit of human and dramatic truth.

The supernatural is, perhaps, comparatively easy to bring off, but the haunting in the barrack-room scene and the finale, full of overblowing with Hudson's paranormal phantasmagoria, have you on the edge of your seat. Yet it is the less obviously showy moments that impress even more: the long first-act duet for Herman and Lisa and the scene of the Countess's death are full of extraordinarily subtle detail and constitute sustained operation of the highest order.

The cast is superb. Nancy Gustafson's Lisa sustains long, gleaming lines free of the steeliness that can

ROCK

Reclaiming the title

Prince and NPG
Earls Court

tion encompasses a razor-sharp trio of rappers, a five-strong horn section with jazz leanings, and the ample, highly able presence of a new vocal partner, the awesome Rosie Gaines. In such company, Prince unfolded a show so fresh, energetic and inventive that it may trounce all-comers for the remainder of the British summer.

The recessionary clouds having lifted somewhat over Prince's empire, this year's revue carries welcome echoes of past excesses. Some of these are technical, the most spectacular being a

vast lighting rig of a shape that fuses the male and female chromosomes, a sym-

bols into an androgynous whole and which hovers ominously throughout. Others are cheap and cheerfully sexual, including the airborne bed on which Prince runs through a menu of foreplay techniques with his two lingerie-clad dancers, as if auditioning for some "adults only" remake of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Musically, the show concentrates on recent and as yet unreleased material, with "Let's Go Crazy", "Kiss", "Purple

Rain" and "1999" the first evening's only escapes from an otherwise firmly closed back catalogue. A tussling extended "Gett Off" raised eyebrows, only for the brand new "Sexy M.F.", a relentless funk groove prohibited by title alone from ever assaulting the airwaves — to send them further skyward. Proving that he can celebrate the heart-felt as well as the hedonistic, a duet with Gaines on the evening's signature "Diamonds and Pearls" was thrilling in the richness of its interplay.

"My Name is Prince", a new song previewed late in the evening, suggested that the artist is continuing to weave a distinctive mythology around his diminutive person. Few of those who catch this run of exceptional London performances will feel his boundless self-confidence is misplaced.

ALAN JACKSON

Startling...
is orthodox...

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

AS YOU LIKE IT: Catherine Hamman and Oliver Parker find true love in the forest. *Marie Adair's* first play. Open Air, Regent's Park, London NW1 0JH 1071-488 2431, 9pm, then in repertoire.

SCOTTISH OPERA: The company's touring repertoire offers the revival of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, and designed by William Orlandi. American soprano Priscilla Bakhareva sings the title role and Sally Burgess sings Annina. Theatre Royal, 100 Gray Street, Newcastle NE1 232 2061, evens, 7.30pm.

PHILHARMONIA: James Gahway gives the London premiere of Dave Heath's new flute concerto, *Cry from the Wild*, in a programme with Brahms' *Symphony No. 9*. Leonard Slatkin conducts. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 071-438 8911, 7.30pm.

BEASTIE BOYS/ROLLINS BAND: The band who reminded us of our night to party co-headline with former Black Flag front man, Henry Rollins, in a hard-hitting double bill. Barrowlands, Glasgow 041-552 4601, tonight, 7.30pm. Hummingbird, Birmingham 021-236 4236, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Academy, Manchester 061-275 2930, Fri, 7.30pm. Town & Country Club, London NW5 071-284 0303, Sat, 7.30pm.

SANTANA: The group offers Afro-Latin guitar riffs with a Latin edge. Hammerstein Oldham, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 081-748 4061, tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

ASPECTS OF LOVE: Sarah Brightman in last ever of Lloyd Webber's popular success before a national tour. Prince of Wales, Coventry Square, W1 071-839 5972, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE BLUE ANGEL: Kelly Hunter and Philip Ince in Trevor Nunn's riveting staging: angel of desire becomes the demon of destruction. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-494 5065, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Geraldine James and Paul Freeman now join Michael Byrne. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 071-438 3172, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12mins.

DEJA VU: Jimmy Porter 36 years on Osborne's hero rants and whinges but in a vacuum, and Peter Egan seems so good-natured to be the Angry Old Man. Comedy, Ramon Street, SW1 071-867 1045, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 17mins.

THE GHOST SOMATIST: Strindberg's weird vision of human greed becomes a fascinating evening of grotesquerie in the Sturdy Beggars production. New End, 27 New End, NW1 071-794 0023, Tues-Sun, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 12mins. Final week.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave lead Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-the-art drama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8801, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 25mins. Final week.

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR: Incessantly dance-worthy evocation of the joys of soul music. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 071-928 6363, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 16mins.

A JUDGEMENT IN STONE: Intense musical thriller based on a Rendell novel. Sheila Hancock leads a strong cast. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 081-741 2311, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
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MOBY DICK: A girl's school plays on a fund-raising show. Tony Ponty plays a headmaster playing Captain Ahab. Beached musical. Piccadilly, Denham Street, W1 071-867 1181, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

THE NIGHT OF THE KRUIANA: Alfred Molina and a superb Eileen Atkins in Tennessee Williams's play on the effects of sexual repression. National (Old Vic), South Bank, SE1 071-938 2252, Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. 160mins.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his coming-of-age. Excellent review of Brian Friel's first success. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 071-236 1916, Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 12mins.

THE REQUIEM OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true. The play's darker corners. National (Old Vic), South Bank, SE1 071-938 2252, Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. 165mins.

THE RULES OF THE GAME: Richard Wilson and Nicola Pegg in Pegg's sardonic study of marital revenge: not as subliminal as it could be but still a gripping drama. Aldrich Theatre, N1 071-359 4404, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 12mins.

A SUE OF THE MONSTER: A wolfish John Malkovich in a lightweight drama. Best seats to evaluate his comic-strip decadence with getting girls into bed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 071-379 5999, Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm and 8.30pm. 150mins.

SOME LIKE IT HOT: But what we get is a brilliant Tony Snee in poor musical version of the film. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 071-734 8951, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 10mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dagnall and Carmel McSharry in a hilarious comedy about a doctor's mother's worries, notably her gay son. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, W1 071-871 1147, Mon-Sat, 8pm, 130mins.

THE VIRTUOSO: Shadowed by Restoration comedy of bad behaviour in the home of a bawling woman. Reviewed with a new cast featuring Simon Cadell, John Wills and Richard Kane. Theatre Royal, Royal Parade, Plymouth 01752 72722, Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Gae Auliffe's terrific production, adapted from the Graham Greene novel, is related with a new cast featuring Simon Cadell, John Wills and Richard Kane. Theatre Royal, Church Street, Leamington 01922 6171, tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow-Sat, 8pm, mats tomorrow, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

PRINCE's last visit to Britain, with 1990's no-frills "Nude" tour, provided one of that year's most sought after tickets. The consensus that it failed to match the achievement of 1988's *Lovesexy* package, let alone the previous year's magnificent *Sign o' the Times* (seen here via film only) provoked suggestions that he was running out of ideas, had been left behind by new developments in black music, was beginning to parody himself, and so on.

The subject of this speculation silenced critics with last autumn's *Diamonds and Pearls*, a well-received, high-selling album that re-emphasised his commitment to dance music, while unravelling the new working class, which he is sharing the eight nights of his Earls Court residency. In addition to its nucleus of musicians and dancers, the New Power Genera-

RECITAL

Vigour of a veteran

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
Barbican

THEY knew that an encore would not be forthcoming: at the end of a cycle like Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* it seldom is. Yet seven times he returned to the platform, and they stood and applauded as if there might indeed be no tomorrow.

As Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau enters his 68th year the applause, unlike that for many an equally determined but less prudent artist, is never for past achievements alone. This was an audience at times transfixed by what it heard, and genuinely moved by a self-renewing encounter with a cycle he had first sung 40 years ago.

A few years back, Fischer-Dieskau declared that *Die Schöne Müllerin* — the tale of a passionate and unrequited infatuation for the miller's fair daughter — was a young man's cycle and he would stop singing it. The change of heart might have been attributed to vanity or sheer defiance. But here, as

with his still developing *Winterreise*, it seemed that there was a clear artistic challenge to be met. Here was the archetype of the ageing Wanderer: arrogant, self-doubting, self-reproaching and finally lulled to sleep in an elemental vision of broader horizons. There was, of course, a real technical challenge too. At times there would be a subtle adjustment in which an interpretative nuance would be made out of the need for time to sculpt a line accurately. At times, too, something approaching a savage *Sprechgesang* would surface. Through it all Christoph Eschenbach mediated and modified with finely tuned sensitivity at the piano.

After the glimpse of the dastardly rival Huntsman, Fischer-Dieskau tuned his artistry to another key. All colour was drained from a line barely moving yet nervously alive in "Faded flowers". "The Miller and the Stream" became a requiem for love, sung in half-voice in tender dialogue. The final lullaby of the brook saw Fischer-Dieskau with eyes closed, at one with his rocking rhythm, momentarily disquieted by the hunting horn yet drawing the performance together with a resolution that sealed its uncompromised authority.

HILARY FINCH

TELEVISION

Business as unusual

Firm Friends
ITV

IN SOME parts of the media, starting a business is still, even after a decade of Thatcherism, an odd and slightly disreputable thing to do. Sexual, social and racial barriers are crossed in other contexts on television, but rarely in the pursuit of profit. For a white middle-class woman in her fifties to make her Asian cleaning lady her partner in a fast-food outlet — the basic idea of the new four-part drama series *Firm Friends* (ITV, last night) — offends against all the anti-commercial proprieties.

So a creaking plot, including vanishing husband and Special Branch, had to be elaborated to persuade the insouciant but winning Rose Gutteridge (Billie Whitelaw) to team up with the more practical but no less unbusinesslike Jayshree Kapoor (Madhur Jaffrey). The latter's husband and mother are played for laughs when they television producers find it possible

to present British Asians other than as comic characters? But the background is deadly serious: mini-riots in Newcastle, extortionate usurers, sinister agents of the authorities.

These "two women against the world" tales are fast becoming as hackneyed as the male buddy-buddy movies of past decades. This one (which rehearsed some ancient set-pieces from bedroom, bank manager's office and saleroom) was rescued from bathos by the sheer acting talent of the two stars. They achieved a higher synthesis than any more conventional partnership could have done with such unpromising material.

True, Jaffrey's culinary skills are so much in evidence that one expects her to start reading the recipes for her samosas at any moment. But hers is a finely nuanced performance, gently saving her employer's blushes while preserving her own dignity. Billie Whitelaw can be at once grief-stricken, flirtatious and inquisitive. All those years of performing Samuel Beckett monologues, far from taking the edge off her humour, seem to have conferred on her the ability to squeeze something out of even the least promising lines. That ability came in very useful here.

DANIEL JOHNSON

THE NIGHT OF THE GUAN...
TENNESSEE...
STRAIGHT AND NARROW...
THE NIGHT OF THE GUAN...
TENNESSEE...
STRAIGHT AND NARROW...

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The voice of all our yesterdays

After a lifetime of waiting for a glimpse of his hero, Douglas Adams compiles a hitchhiker's guide to Paul McCartney, who has his fiftieth birthday tomorrow

I vaguely remember my schooldays. They were what was going on in the background while I was trying to listen to the Beatles.

When "Can't Buy Me Love" came out I was 12. I sneaked out of school during morning milk break, bought the record and broke into my room because she had a record player. Then I played it, not loud enough to get caught, but just loud enough to hear with my ear pressed against the speaker. Then I played it again for the other ear. Then I turned the record over and did the same for "You Can't Do That". That was when the housemaster found me and put me into detention, which is what I had expected. It seemed a small price to pay for what I now realise was art.

I didn't know it was art then, of course. I only knew that the Beatles were the most exciting thing in the universe. It wasn't always an easy view to live with. First you had to fight the Stones fans, which was tricky because they fought dirty and had their knuckles nearer the ground. Then you had to fight the grown-ups: parents and teachers who said that you were wasting your time and pocket money on rubbish that you would have forgotten by next week.

I found it hard to understand why they were telling me this. I sang in the school choir and knew how to listen for harmony and counterpoint, and it was clear to me that the Beatles were doing something extraordinarily clever. It bewildered me that no one else could hear it: impossible harmonies and part playing you had never heard in pop songs before. The Beatles were obviously just putting all this

stuff in for some secret fun of their own, and it seemed exciting to me that people could have fun in that way.

The next exciting thing was that they kept on losing me. They would bring out a new album and for a few listenings it would leave me cold and confused. Then gradually it would begin to unravel itself in my mind. I would realise that the reason I was confused was that I was listening to something that was simply unlike anything that anybody had done before: "Another Girl", "Good Day Sunshine" and the extraordinary "Drive My Car". These tracks are so familiar now that it takes a special effort of will to remember how alien they seemed at first to be. The Beatles were now not just writing songs, they were inventing the very medium in which they were working.

I never got to see them. Difficult to believe, I know. I was alive at the time that the Beatles were performing and never got to see them. I tend to go on about this rather a lot. Do not go to San Francisco with me or I will insist on pointing out Candlestick Park to you and beating on about the fact that in 1966 the Beatles played their last concert there, just shortly before I'd woken up to the fact that rock concerts were things you actually could go to, even if you lived in Brentwood.

A friend of mine at school once had some studio tickets to see David Frost's show being recorded, but we ended up not going. I watched the show that night and the Beatles were on it playing "Hey Jude". I was ill for about a year. Another day that I happened not to go up to London after all was the day they played their rooftop concert in Savile Row. I can't even speak about that.



YESTERDAY

Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away,
now it looks as though they're here to stay,
oh I believe in yesterday.

Top: Changing faces of McCartney, from mid-Sixties to early Nineties, including (second left, bottom row) Humphrey Ocean's portrait. Below: McCartney's manuscript original of "Yesterday"

leg off in order to go. I went. In front of two hundred people in a pub, Paul McCartney stood up and played songs he'd never, I think, played in public before. "Here, There and Everywhere" and "Blackbird" to name but two.

I've played "Blackbird" in pubs, for heaven's sake. I spent weeks learning the guitar part when I was supposed to be revising for A-levels. I almost wondered if I was hallucinating.

There were, though, two moments of complete astonishment. One was the last concert, which was an immaculate, thunderous performance of, believe it or not, "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band". (Remember, this was in a pub.) And the other was one of the

world's greatest rock 'n' roll songs, "Can't Buy Me Love", which I had first heard crooning with my car copped to the Danos record player in the school matron's room.

There is a game people like to play, which goes "When would you most like to have lived and why?" The Italian Renaissance? Mozart's Vienna? Shakespeare's England? Personally I would like to have been around Bach. But I have a real difficulty with the game, which is that living at any other period of history would have meant missing the Beatles and I honestly don't think I could do that. Mozart and Bach and Shakespeare are always with us, but I grew up with the Beatles and I'm not sure what else has affected me as much as that.

So Paul McCartney is 50 tomorrow. Happy birthday, Paul. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

● Paul McCartney's birthday will be celebrated all day on BBC Radio 2 tomorrow, and also in the London area on Capital Gold.

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

Startling in his orthodoxy

Stephen Pettitt talks to the composer John Tavener about his first venture into opera, *Mary of Egypt*, which will be given its world premiere at Aldeburgh this Friday

PREVIEW

A thin pencil of a figure, looking older than his 48 years, John Tavener is a devoted member of the Eastern Orthodox Church. In the coming months this reclusive but charming man, whose "cello concerto" *The Protecting Veil* has become something of a cult success after its 1989 Proms premiere, has four first performances at festivals around Britain.

Besides the opera *Mary of Egypt* at Aldeburgh, there will be *The Last Sleep of the Virgin* for string quartet and handbells on July 15 in Cheltenham, a choral work, *We Shall See Him As He Is*, in Chester on July 18 and at the

Proms on July 23, and *Village Wedding*, for the Hilliard Ensemble in Glamorgan on August 28. All have religious, indeed specifically Orthodox, connections. Has he always been a religious person? "No, not as a child. The revelatory experience was my first performance in 1956 of Stravinsky's *Canticum Sacrum* in St Mark's, Venice. With hindsight, that piece seemed to capture in its 12 minutes something of the Byzantine spirit. It's the nearest Western man has got to what I mean by sacred music. And then I began writing pieces which aped its style."

Simplicity remains essential to Tavener's art. "I have difficulty with the West. Western music is so mundane. The melodic line doesn't seem as interesting as in eastern music. I'd like gradually to get rid of harmony. I'm in danger of being ridiculous, I realise. But to return to the sacred I have to go by that path."

"It would be interesting to



John Tavener in the marshes at Snape, where *Mary of Egypt* will be premiered

see what a sixth century man could make of my music. That would tell me how sacred it was. Sacred art's got nothing to do with centuries."

The subject of the new opera is a fourth century prostitute and saint whose younger life is spent whoring in Alexandria. She travels with pilgrims to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. But when she comes to the church door she cannot enter. "She falls at the feet of the icon of the Mother of God, and is told to go into the desert, where she lives for 40 years, not seeing anybody, eating virtually nothing, until a so-called holy man, Zossima, discovers her. In discovering her, his life is changed too."

Tavener was haunted by the story for a long time, uncertain of how it could be depicted on stage. "I wanted an almost childlike libretto. Then I came

into contact with Mother Thekla (Abbess of the Greek Orthodox Monastery in Normanby, Yorkshire), who's now my spiritual adviser, confidante and, for this opera, librettist. She talked about the apparent vice of Mary and the apparent goodness of Zossima. He had pride, which was blocking his love. Though Mary was whoring she at least knew love, even though she was misdirecting it."

What about the music? As is often the case, Tavener's concept seems startlingly simple. "When Mary's whoring in Egypt she doesn't sing any words, just very beautiful melisma. On the other hand Zossima is almost comically verbose. The words and music are very simple, all loosely based on a Byzantine hymn. "The nearer Zossima gets to Mary's orbit, his stiffness be-

comes less, and when he actually enters her presence in the desert his sound world is absorbed by hers. There's a sort of love duet, where they ask for each other's blessing. He has understood what love is by meeting with her, and he can therefore love God."

Tavener was gravely ill last year and needed heart surgery. "I could have died during the operation." Had he been prepared for his confrontation with mortality? "No, not really. I think of death a lot. The fathers of the Orthodox church say you should live every moment of your life as if it were your last, and the experience gave me some idea of what that really feels like."

● *Mary of Egypt* will be performed in the Snape Concert Hall on Friday, and again on June 24, at 7.30. (Aldeburgh Foundation Box Office, 0728 454076)

Beggars and mad ladies

ALDEBURGH REVIEW

Since the deaths of Britten and Pears, the Aldeburgh Festival has concerned itself with constant renewal rather than indulgent nostalgia. So it was appropriate that the *London Sinfonietta* should have featured in the first weekend of this year's festival, which also coincided with the 40th birthday of its conductor here, Oliver Knussen. Cue, Stravinsky's version of *Happy Birthday To You*. After that, commented Knussen, his own *Ophelia Dances* (1975) would "sound terrible".

Of course it did not: it never does, especially with a performance so alive to all its subtle changes of colour, direction, and mood. The *Sinfonietta* gave an equally good account of Knussen's *Songs Without Words*, completed last April. This elegant piece, scored for mixed octet, showed that Knussen has retained his penchant for rich scoring and lyrical lines. He teases a little here: while the fourth piece, "Elegiac Arabesques", blooms from a lovely cor anglais melody composed on hearing of Andrzej Panufnik's death, the other three, nearly as beautiful, are poems set syllable by syllable, but with the texts then removed.

Besides Knussen's work, there was another British piece, Colin Matthews's *Suns Dance* (1985). This extraordinary, extended explosion (now something of a party piece for the *Sinfonietta*) made its usual thrilling effect. It quite eclipsed Henri Dutilleul's *Dipsyque - Les Citations*. Much more effective was Poul Ruders's *Four Compositions* (1980). It

spoke of an already determined and original talent, at least after the rather over-thorough Variations movement with which it began. A complex Scherzo, a rugged yet serene Plainsong and a positive, dramatic *Sorite* all showed sureness of touch and, importantly, an ability to communicate directly.

This wonderfully varied but badly attended concert was followed the next evening by Britten's clever realisation of John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, made for the English Opera Group in 1948.

Apart from Declan Mulholland's performance as The Beggar - a degree too ragged in the small matter of announcing the right scene - this was a slick performance. Philip Langridge's Macbeth was cynical, chauvinistic and sly; Ann Murray's Polly and Yvonne Kenny's Lucy scowled with feline fury at each other, while Anne Collins and Robert Lloyd were jovially corrupt as Mr and Mrs Peachum, and

John Rawnsley's Lockit was every inch the wide boy. The conductor Stuart Bedford wisely allowed no tarrying.

Sunday evening saw a typically fine programme given by the *New London Chamber Choir* under James Wood. Perhaps the four Italian madrigals by Heinrich Schütz were too ambitious for the five solo voices assigned to each. But thereafter, riches came upon riches. Brahms's *Five Songs*. Op 104, were delivered with a fulsome sound by the entire choir, while the challenge of Dallapiccola's boldly coloured *Due cori di Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane*, from 1933, was equally well met.

Yet harder tests came in the second half: the richly sustained Byzantine edifice of John Tavener's *Hymn to the Holy Spirit*; Stravinsky's hazardous *The Dove Descending Breaks the Air*; Ligeti's onomatopoeic *Night and Morning*; and the NLCC sang with colours ablaze, and crowned it all with Messiaen's exquisite motet *O Sacram Communion*.

STEPHEN PETTITT

THE NIGHT of the IGUANA

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS



"RICHARD EYRE'S marvellous new production" Financial Times

"EIFFEN ATRINS...altogether wonderful" Mail on Sunday

"An absolutely knockout performance by ALFRED MOLINA" Observer

"FRANCIS BARBER...impressively joyful" Observer

"ROBIN BAILEY...unbeatable" Sunday Express

"ON ALL ACCOUNTS, SEE IT" Financial Times

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Deutsche director

In Berlin the Deutsche Oper has appointed the German-Spanish conductor Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos as its general music director for five years from August 1993. He succeeds Giuseppe Sinopoli. The recent history of the Deutsche Oper has been troubled, with a rumoured rift between Sinopoli and the

company's general director, Götz Friedrich, who will continue in his position.

Last chance...

THE Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Aspects of Love*, will have notched up an impressive 1,325 performances by Saturday when it ends its three-year residence at the Prince of Wales (071-839 5972). Sarah Brightman sings Rose at all of this week's performances except for today's matinee when the role will be sung by Clare Burt.

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From lover to blockbuster

Matt Wolf talks to the French director Jean-Jacques Annaud, whose new film based on a novel by Marguerite Duras will be seen in Britain this week.

A slow-burning romance set in 1920s Indo-China might seem like dubious material for a blockbuster film. That prospect sounds even more unlikely coming from a novelist — 78-year-old French writer Marguerite Duras — whose past screen work (*Hiroshima Mon Amour*, *Moderato Cantabile*, among others) has drawn critical acclaim and cult appeal, but never widespread commercial success.

Still, Jean-Jacques Annaud, who has filmed Duras' 1984 novel *The Lover* (*L'Amant*) for the screen, has surprised the world before. His first film, *Black and White in Colour* (1977), a witty satire on colonial French West Africa made for a mere \$500,000, beat the much heralded *Cousin, Cousine* to win the Oscar for best foreign film.

In 1986, Annaud turned Umberto Eco's metaphysical thriller *The Name of the Rose* into an international hit that did well virtually everywhere except America. In *Quest for Fire* (1981), set 80,000 years ago, Annaud invented a new language. Clearly, he is a man who follows his own instincts — and, by and large, has been right to do so.

"I'm not trying to satisfy one public or another," Annaud, a gregarious 49-year-old, said during a recent visit to London. "I just do films based on my taste." That taste, as he defines it, runs toward big and ambitious films like his recent *The Bear*. "I want to do my stories but with the same tools as my colleagues from Los Angeles. I want to be able to put on to the large screen something of the same nature as they do."

Not for Annaud the jewel-like moral parables of an Eric Rohmer, or the distilled vision of a Bertrand

Tavernier (*Sunday in the Country*). Annaud tends towards expansion, not contraction, which may be why *The Lover* is a \$30m (£16m) movie that has already grossed triple that amount, not a precious art-house film seen by a minority public. Bearing that in mind, it is no surprise to hear that he was jealous of Bernardo Bertolucci when the Oscar-winning Italian director was signed to film *The Last Emperor*.

"I come from a country that regards cinema as an art," says Annaud, "where too many films just don't play any more. If they don't play, they die, because the cinema has to play somewhere." As an example, he cites "a film I adore" — Alain Cavalier's *Thérèse* (1986), the austere account of a 19th-century nun who died at the age of 24. "That was a subject made for \$200,000, but there are many subjects you cannot do for \$200,000. *Thérèse* has been seen by a very limited audience in small cinemas around the world, and that's frustrating." Annaud's only analogous experience was with his little-known second film, *Coup de Tête*, a satire on French provincial life starring the late Patrick Dewaere.

With *The Lover*, Annaud guarded against a film "that would be suitable only for scholars." Drawn to the material by its emphasis on a woman — a 15-year-old French girl (played by Jane March, a Briton) who falls for a 32-year-old Chinese man (Tony Leung) — he liked the combination of an intimate story and a majestic Asian setting. The filming itself took six months, double the shoot of *Quest for Fire*, and it was one of the first significant western films to be made on location in Vietnam.

How did the director fare with



The Young Girl and the China Man: Jane March and Tony Leung in *The Lover*, with the director Jean-Jacques Annaud on the left

his illustrious novelist? Annaud smiles: "With Marguerite, a typical day would be kisses, kisses, kisses, then shout, shout, shout. 'I hate you!' followed by 'I love you!'. 'I don't want to have my name on the film', and then, 'Why is my name so small?'"

But Annaud says Duras understood that this was film-making on a scale which she herself would never have tackled. "Her own films are unique, almost experimental, and that for her is the only possible way. At the same time, she realises there are other ways of shooting films, and she wanted something

that was not typical of Marguerite Duras."

The only child of a railway administrator, Annaud recalls growing up "in a little world" obsessed with the cinema. "I got my first still camera at seven, my first movie camera at eleven. But much like Marguerite saying she was going to be a writer when she hadn't read more than two or three books, I had only seen ten or so films."

While his parents hoped to see him in a "safe and nice" profession like engineering, Annaud attended the Sorbonne and two Paris film

schools, and began his career in commercials. "You name it, I've filmed it," Annaud says of that period when, he recalls, he was making one commercial a week for ten years.

During that time, he met Britons like Alan Parker, Adrian Lyne, and Ridley and Tony Scott, and it is those directors — all commercially orientated — with whom he feels the greatest affinities. Unlike most of them, though, Annaud has never uprooted to Hollywood, and he remains convinced that distance is best.

"I like the fact that I can go there,

be offered screenplays, get money from them, and then go back to my farm," says Annaud, who lives with his wife and two daughters in the countryside 60 miles south of Paris. "The danger in Los Angeles is that you only see people in the industry, and you don't do films about life. You do films about films because you're in that sort of bubble."

"My job is to feel free," he says. "I like picking the subjects I want and going wherever I want, without the house in Malibu and breakfast in the Polo Lounge."

David Robinson will review *The Lover* tomorrow.

THEATRE IN FRANCE

French farceurs joke on

A new generation has discovered Georges Courteline and Sacha Guitry

France's cherished comic playwrights Georges Courteline and Sacha Guitry are long gone. But their wit still his home, because Courteline's subjects — civil servants and the military — and Guitry's theatre folk seem unchanging. The hero of Courteline's short play *Mr Badin*, about an office employee who cannot bring himself to go to work, is a close cousin to Kafka's Gregor Samsa and to Melville's Bartley the Scrivener. The latter writers also saw, as Courteline put it, "the imbecility of things and the bad grace of men", but their reaction was not quite a belly laugh. Courteline's satires on the civil service have often been performed at the Comédie Française, in numb versions played by actors who are themselves civil servants and junk it. A fresher outlook is clearly needed.

Which brings us to the Alceon Theatre, a stone's throw away from the Père Lachaise Cemetery in the 11th arrondissement. There a

small group of talented young actors called the "Strapontins coquins" (The Naughty Buskers) are staging a group of Courteline and Guitry one-acters. The production is simplicity itself (the minimal scenery is credited to Pablo Vidal) but the results are charming. Standing out in the cast is a tall string bean of a fellow, Dominique Pozzetto, who plays a dizzying variety of roles, including the reluctant employee Mr Badin, and the house guest Mr Des Rillettes in Courteline's *Les Boulingrins*. The name Des Rillettes has a comic ring in the French, combining an attempt at nobility with a common kitchen item, like Sir Hash Browns or Lord de Kippers might sound to an English ear. When Des Rillettes

announces his name to a maid (engagingly played by Nathalie Lapeyronnie), she bursts into a fit of giggles, crying, "I've heard worse! In my village there was a man named Mr Cowfoot!" Des Rillettes arrives as a house guest expecting pampering, but his host, expertly played by Vincent Andrieu, turns out to have a hellish relationship with his wife (overplayed by Isabelle Parsy). Courteline's guest ends up like a battered child, a victim of domestic misery — potentially tragic material, like most of this superb farceur's writings.

Not so the Sacha Guitry piece at the Alceon, about a playwright (Eric Pena) who fires an impassive actress (Isabelle Parsy, overplaying again). This requires high style to cope with Guitry's immense urbanity and insider's theatrical humour, which much influenced Noël Coward. Here the young actors were not quite up to conveying the variety of tone demanded by Guitry's elegant bitching and subtle, refined tantrums. But for the most part, the show was a breezy amusement, and actors like Dominique Pozzetto, Nathalie Lapeyronnie and Vincent

Andrieu will be heard from again.

For those unable to get as far as the rue du Général Blaise in the 11th arrondissement, the *Pensées* of Guitry and Courteline have been published in separate volumes by Cherche-Midi Editions in Paris (175pp and 191pp respectively, both FF68). A readable choice of Courteline's plays has been made by Dominique Geurinu for *école des loisirs* publishers (90pp, FF23), and an affectionate biography of Guitry by Dominique Desanti has recently appeared from *Livre de Poche* Editions (512pp, FF34). All required reading for fans of these immortal French farces.

BENJAMIN IVRY



Versatile: Dominique Pozzetto

Test your knowledge of Paris and the Parisians in today's competition

Free return trip to France

THE exclusive Passport to France travel offer continues with *The Times* giving you the chance to take a car full of family or friends to France for free. Readers can save up to £190 by sailing to France with Sealink Stena Line ferries before August 31, 1992 and receiving a ticket free for a return cross-Channel trip between September 14 and December 17, 1992.

The offer is available on the Dover-Calais, Southampton-Cherbourg and Newhaven-Dieppe routes and gives you the freedom to do-as-you-like. You can relax in a rural gîte, tour the vineyards sampling a little of the local produce, or simply lie on the beach. It is easy to while away the hours in

a sun-drenched villa in the Dordogne or driving through the foothills of the Alps.

To qualify for our exclusive Sealink offer, readers of *The Times* are invited to book and pay for an all-in car standard return at the brochure price for travel before August 31. The all-in car standard return fare entitles up to five persons (including the driver) to take any length of car, motorised caravan or minibus by Sealink for a minimum seven-day stay.

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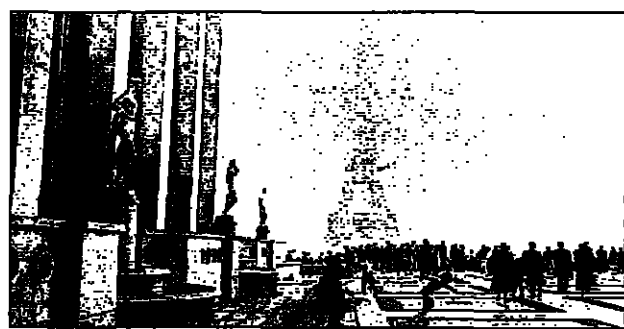


Day Three of the second Passport to France travel offer. Collect 10 tokens to claim your free trip to France



HOW TO BOOK
Readers should book their travel before August 31 by contacting their local Abta travel agent, motoring organisation or calling Sealink direct on 0233 615222. Monday-Friday 7.30am to 8.30pm; Saturday 7.30am to 7.30pm; Sunday 9am to 5pm. Readers will then receive a voucher and a booking form entitling them to a free ticket for travel between September 14 and December 17, 1992.

After completing the first journey, readers should attach to the application form the counterfoil of the first ticket and 10 different Passport to France Sealink tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between June 14 and June 27.



Inviting vista: enjoy the capital's renowned glories

Luxury in Paris

This is the third day *The Times*, in association with T.A.T. European Airlines and Copthorne Hotels, is giving you the chance to win one of five luxury two night breaks in Paris.

The five winners of today's competition and their partners will be flown by T.A.T. European Airlines, the major French independent airline, to Charles de Gaulle Airport. On board complimentary drinks and a light snack will be served with a copy of *The Times*.

In Paris today's winners and their partners will stay for two nights in the four star Hotel Copthorne Charles de Gaulle. The hotel has a sports leisure complex and is near to Euro Disney, Parc Astérix and Villepinet Expo Centre.

Today's winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to visit the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace. To enter, simply answer the three questions below and telephone our competition line on 0891 700 149 before midnight tonight. You will be asked to give your answers, leave your name, address and telephone number. Calls cost 36p per minute at cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight and notified

by telephone tomorrow. The winners' names will be published in *The Times* on Friday June 19.

Conditions of entry: Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd., T.A.T. Copthorne Hotels or their agents are ineligible for entry.

The Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. *The Times* competition rules apply — available on request.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Where was Marie Antoinette imprisoned?
2. What is the oldest bridge in Paris?
3. What is the name of the island on which Notre Dame stands?

Monday's answers are:
1. Fokker
2. St. Denis
3. 300 metres (984 feet)

The winners are: Mrs A. Thomson, Cambridge; Mr J.P. De Courcy Meade, Gloucestershire; Mr H.C. Smit, Middlesex; Mr A. Hitchcock, Warrington; Mr J. Hanney, Coventry



ART IN ROMANIA

Coming into the sunlight

Long-hidden works of art are on show again in Bucharest

If you can liken works of art to the prisoners in *Fidelio*, precious Romanian works are now emerging dazed into the sunlight, after years of political imprisonment in attics and cellars or under floorboards. Their liberator is Dan Nasta, vice president of the Romanian Society of Art Collectors, who has just put on display a remarkable collection of survivors in the Museum of Art Collections, in Calea Victoriei, Bucharest. Every piece — whether icon, painting, sculpture or carpet — proudly declared itself as testimony to the rich culture that was once Romania.

Mr Nasta has used two large rooms to display the works — all of them privately owned and personally lent for the occasion. His own contributions have an added poignancy. In his home in Strada Rosemarie, the rooms of which are crammed with every kind of beautiful object reflecting a lifetime's obsession with collecting, he lived through part of the Ceausescu era. He describes five years of hell, as the bulldozers making space

for Ceausescu's palace came ever closer to his house. Many of his neighbours, sometimes given an hour or two's notice, had their homes demolished. Today it seems like a miracle that his house — with only one other left beside it — still stands, directly facing the huge Boulevard of Socialism.

The first room of the exhibition contains paintings from the two great periods of Romanian art: that of the late 19th century, which produced painters such as Lucian Blaga and Stephan Luchian; and that of the interwar period, made noteworthy by such artists as George Petrescu and Theodor Pallady. Across the garden, a

second room contains entrancing paintings and objects *d'art* from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. These works, which clearly reveal the Turkish, German and Greek influences on Romanian culture, include silver teapots and plates, carpets, china and icons on glass. It was these latter which gave an especially Romanian flavour to the exhibition. Such works used to be painted by peasants all over the country; the technique is probably Byzantine in origin. Nature is stylised in them and figures depicted with a charming naivety, but to me their particular beauty lies in their colour. Tones are selected and harmonised with an unerring

instinct: the colour scheme is never strident when the tones are crude, nor dull when the colouring is subdued. Astonishingly subtle harmonies are created when the artist, usually anonymous, alternates warm hues with cold ones, placing green next to red, and orange against blue.

The lunch-time opening was a moment of nostalgia and silent drama. Collectors and relatives of the artists and owners were all present. And mingled with these honoured guests, many of whom wore beautiful black hats with the hint of a veil, or faded velvet jackets, were some of the up-and-thrusting National Salvation Front ministers — the sons of the very men and women who had helped to destroy Romania's culture. But the human survivors, and the artistic treasures they had guarded and preserved and which are now proudly poised on the walls, bore witness to the past without making any accusation.

JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME

FURNITURE IN SPAIN

Dali's high-heeled chair

STANDING in a barren landscape and overlooked by a snarling dog's head, the sinuous chair in Salvador Dali's *Woman with Rose Head* is not the kind you would automatically sit in.

With its three bony golden legs squeezed into tiny high-heeled shoes and a backrest apparently inspired by a dissected human arm, the chair does not create a feeling of relaxation or peace.

But the inhumanity of this two-dimensional chair and other Dali objects has not worried the Barcelona designers of a new furniture range

based on the eccentric Catalan artist's work.

Reproduced in three dimensions and cast in brass, the so-called Leda chair and an accompanying low table maintain the tortured look of the original.

"A Dali chair is not a comfortable chair," explains Robert Descharmes of the design team. "He himself used to say: 'A chair can have many uses, though not necessarily that of being sat on.'"

The chair is one of seven pieces in the Dali collection produced by the BD Design Company and now on sale

at its Barcelona shop.

Descharmes and the other main promoter of the idea, architect and designer Oscar Tusquets, are no newcomers to Dali's world. The former was the painter's secretary and confidant for more than 40 years and heads the Demart Pro Arte Company formed to protect his copyright. The latter worked with Dali on the piece of furniture he is perhaps best known for, the red-lipped Salvasofa housed in the Mae West room of the artist's Figueras Museum.

According to Descharmes, Dali would have liked to

design and produce more furniture but the furious creative pace he set meant most of his projects remained unfinished.

Thus the other five pieces in the collection are all based on Dali drawings for Parisian furniture maker Jean-Michel Frank in the 1930s which never made it past the painter's sketchpad.

BD reports that the furniture, priced between £400 and £5,000 a piece, is selling well — especially to the Dali-obsessed Japanese.

GILES TREMLETT

● **AIN-EN-PROVENCE:** The lavender-scented Festival International d'Art Lyrique et de Musique held in the heart of Provence, offers opera in the open-air courtyard of the Archbishop's Palace and recitals in the gleaming-filled Romanesque cloister of the Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur. This year sees *Don Giovanni*, with the Swedish soprano Hillevi Martinpelto and the English Chamber Orchestra; Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*; and an all-British Britten *Midsummer Night's Dream*, with cast including James Bowman and Lillian Watson. Bureau du Festival, place de l'ancien Archevêché, F-13100 Aix. Tel: (010 33) 42173434, fax 42961261. July 13-31.

● **BRUSSELS:** The Théâtre de la Monnaie stages Borlino's grandiose masterpiece, *Les Troyens*, in a new production conducted by Sylvain Cambreling and directed by Peter Mussbach. The rising French soprano Françoise Pollet is Cassandra. Théâtre de la Monnaie, rue Leopold 4, Brussels 1000. Tel: (010 322) 2181211/02. June 19, 21, 24, 27, 30.

● **GRANADA:** The International Festival of Music and Dance brings performances by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Ballet Lirico Nacional, the Kirov Orchestra, Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, the Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood, and the Orchestra of Schleswig-Holstein under Lorin Maazel. Centro Cultural Gran Capitan. Tel: (010 34 58) 206847. June 19-July 5.

● **PARIS:** An important cultural link between France and Czechoslovakia, Joseph Sima came to Paris in 1921, when he was 30, and quickly integrated himself into the Ecole de Paris, especially the Surrealist group. He was important in the circle of the avant-garde magazine *Le Grand Jeu* (subject of a side exhibition) and during his career went through almost every available style from Realism in Cubism to Geometrical Abstraction.

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 ave du Président Wilson. Tel: (010 331) 40701110. Until June 21.

● **PARIS:** The Comédie Française's most recent production is of Lermontov's *Bat Masque*, directed by Anatoli Vasiliev, one of Russia's most controversial directors. The drama tells the tragedy of a man who murders the wife he adores because he suspects her of infidelity.

Comédie Française, 1 place Colette. Tel: (010 331) 40150015. Until July 30.

● **VENICE:** *Leonardo and Venice* is a two-part exhibition on da Vinci built around 16 important drawings from the Accademia collection, bequeathed to it by the connoisseur Giuseppe Bossi in 1822. The first half brings together these with other da Vincis from European collections on related themes, while the second takes a scholarly look at the effect da Vinci and his followers had on Venetian art.

Palazzo Grassi, Grand Canal. Tel: (010 3941) 5231680. Until July 5.

Cracking the sexual codes

Cate Haste has attempted to write a history of the changing sexual mores in Britain from the first world war to today. Has she succeeded? Libby Purves reports

Philosophically, Philip Larkin claimed that sexual intercourse began in 1964 — "Which was rather late for me — Between the end of the Chatterley ban/And the Beatles' first LP..."

A simple view, but perhaps as good as most. You have to be bold and rash to attempt a full history of sexual mores in this century: for each of us nurtured our own theory, about the Pill or the divorce laws or pornography, and makes our own patterns from the century's shifting sands of "morality".

But the moment a comprehensible pattern starts to emerge, somebody's ancient grandmother says a shocking thing about gels in the 1920s or a researcher in the files of a founding hospital emerges with proof that the Victorian poor had a far more earthly peasant attitude to sex and illegitimacy than the repressed middle-class novelists who pondered at them about modesty. Why risk trying to analyse the history of sexual mores? You might as well throw in the sponge (or other device) and give up.

But not Cate Haste. Ms Haste, an elegant, sharp-witted producer of historical television documentaries, has bravely attempted, in her book *Rules of Desire*, nothing less than a history of sex in Britain from the first world war to now. Or at least, to July 1990, when with a sigh of relief she handed in her manuscript. Sexual discussion, however, disabblingly continued, leaving her slightly frustrated.

"I have missed so much, haven't I? The Mothers Union and prostitution, Jenni Murray saying marriage was legalised prostitution, various Aids conferences." She shakes her head sadly. "But I was quite pleased to stop. You should see my newspaper cutting files."

Here was a vast task, taking in literary, legal, sociological and anecdotal evidence, and the result is surprisingly readable. Surprisingly because Ms Haste is intellectual rather than racy, and indeed in the post-war section seems frequently to have been sandbagged by sheer weight of statistics.

What leaves her decorous and responsible analysis is the quotations. I was bound to her by gratitude from page 2, where she reveals Dame Ethel Smyth's marvellous protest to the Archbishop of Canterbury about the prime minister Herbert Asquith's opposition to women's suffrage. It was "disgraceful," said the battling composer, that "millions of women shall be trampled underfoot because of the 'convictions' of an old man who notoriously can't be left alone in a

room with a young girl after dinner". Nor could Lloyd George, or many others of that era when as Ms Haste kindly puts it, greater press reticence enabled many great men to "make their own private contracts with the conventions governing the sexual code". (A sad little echo of that era was audible in Harold Macmillan's lament over Profumo: "In the old days you could be absolutely sure that you could go into a restaurant with your wife and not see a man that you knew having lunch with a tart. It was all kept separate.")

It is that sexual code, and its shifting imperatives down the decades, which Ms Haste has been trying to crack. "I was originally doing a book on post-war sexual mores, focusing on political changes. But it became apparent that it had all begun long before then, and that the idea of the 1960s youth crusade is false. The real changes were being brought about by middle-aged people, like Michael Foot and Roy Jenkins."

So her sweep is long and wide, taking in the crusade against child pornography of the 1880s, the establishment's anxious dread of the emerging flapper (who by bicycling would "destroy the sweet simplicity of her girlish nature" — what can that have meant?), the freethinking of Wells and Huxley, the social changes of the first war (during which, to prevent immorality, terrifying patrols of women volunteers crept round Hyde Park flashing torches at lovers and administering coffee-and-biscuit to drunk soldiers to make them sick).

Between the wars she covers the rise of the immoral Tea-Room (with adjacent back-room) and the psychiatric treatment of homosexual undergraduates, who, according to Lytton Strachey, walk about haggard on the lawn, wondering whether they could bear the thought of a woman's private parts.

And so on through the era of Marie Stopes and her war on ignorance, through the cataclysmic social changes of the second world war, to the Chatterley trial, Kinsey and the marital orgasm seen as a duty, via *Schoolgirls' Oz* and the Festival of Light to the "new celibacy" and the deft stick in which we find ourselves now, a hopelessly sexualised society covering in fear of Aids and mesmerized by Madonna's corsets.

I would have liked a browse through Ms Haste's bookshelf in the home she shares with her husband Melvyn Bragg: where else might one hope for a copy of Baden-Powell's *Rovering to Success*, with its strictures against wasting one's seed instead of letting it make you a "strong manly man", as well as the war memoirs of Barbara Cartland — a tough-minded, sensible welfare worker at that time? But Ms Haste had preferred to meet in a hotel coffee-room, which was fair enough.

We talked about patterns which she had seen. "I think down the century one sees a lessening of the gap between what people actually do — and always did — and what they can admit to doing. And you see how changes in sexual morality follow economic emancipation: in the 1960s, young people had jobs and flats."

Another pattern she sees is of authority — "always trying to put the lid back on. Always afraid of some kind of floodgate opening. But it never quite works, does it? Especially because of women. The more women have come to rely on their own emotional responses and want their own fulfilment, there



Sex in our time: the producer of historical television documentaries, Cate Haste has written a history of sex which gives a different insight into the Swinging Sixties

has been increasing personal choice."

She is herself a child of the 1960s, a Sussex student from that university's trendiest years, and found herself starting to recognise the terrain as her researches reached the 1950s. "You get echoes through your parents of the way things were before. That idea of the Bad Girl who wasn't mentioned, who might even be shut in an asylum as a 'moral and mental imbecile' if she had a baby."

Ms Haste resisted the pressure to marry early, and had her children in her early thirties. There is a certain relish in the way she quotes the 1950s women's magazines from whose grip her generation just escaped: the suggestion that passivity and psychic dependence were necessary for women's sexual fulfilment (Dr Marie Robinson's *The Power of Surrender* sold a million in 1959, urging women to be "the passive instrument of another person, stretched out su-

perely beneath him, taken up willfully by his passion as leaves are swept up before the wind").

However, not everything changes that much, even in sexual revolutions. The 1970s imperative towards accomplished, athletic, multi-organic sex brings its own burdens. "I heard a programme recently," Ms Haste says, "where a woman in her early twenties said: 'We're very proficient, but I feel I'm a pinball machine being played.' What seems to happen is that one tyranny gets replaced by another."

Ms Haste is good at spotting tyrannies. In the 1960s sexual revolution one girl recalled freespinned men and "Ghastly, ghastly jealousy. You'd cry a lot and you would scream sometimes and the man would say 'Don't bring me down — don't lay your bummers on me.' She is acute on the way that the Pill, by focusing attention on

hormones rather than genitals, steered sex out of the moral and into the purely medical arena. She spotted the exact moment when both De Gaulle's and the British Rail concessionary staff ticket system solemnly recognised the existence of stable cohabiting couples (1981).

The one baffling omission, throughout, is the absence of children from the picture: there is no mention of the Paedophile Information Exchange scandal, nor of the sexualization of young children's clothes and heroes, nor even of the children of divorce. "I did not cover the child abuse question," she says, "because I was covering so much else."

As the book comes to the present day, the emphasis is more and more markedly on gratification and the search for sexual identity: it has an odd 1960s ring when she talks of the post-Aids period as an opportunity not to breed censoriousness, but to encourage "more imaginative sensuality and a new

stress on variety in erotic expression, fantasy and exploration of whole body sensuality which could enlarge rather than diminish the meanings of sex. Ironically it may also provide the perfect justification for the separation of sex from procreation." When asked whether this separation is an unalloyed benefit, Ms Haste, a true child of her generation, looks briefly baffled. "Yes."

But nobody can read, still less research, a book like this without wanting to find some personal centre, a final word on sex with which to agree. I was tempted by a line from the 1920s homosexual playboy Brian Howard: "People should be left alone, dear. As long as children are protected it really doesn't matter going to bed with a lamp-post. Napoleon and Lenin thought so, the modern psychologists think so — and so do I."

Rules of Desire is published by Chatto & Windus on June 24 (£14.99)

The war between the states of mind

Impending legislative changes on abortion have polarised the United States. But why is the debate in that country so particularly fierce — and violent?

A hand grenade was found recently outside an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas. The clinic was the site last summer of violent clashes between "pro-life" and "pro-choice" demonstrators, scenes that were repeated in Buffalo, New York State.

The dispute will come to a head soon, when the nine justices on the US Supreme Court make their decisions: should abortion remain a constitutional right? While the issue has been hotly debated in many countries since the first legalising moves of the 1960s, the United States has always seen the fiercest arguments.

For feminist groups, such as the National Organisation for Women, the debate is, essentially, about men's control of women — their attempt to retain their slipping grasp of women's reproduction. Writer Angela Bonavoglia, who interviewed many women for her book *Choices We Made*, believes that for men, control over women is part of their identity.

"We've now got a society where many men are losing ground — working-class men, even white collar men are losing their jobs. So there's more clinging to that role than there's ever been."

"What you're really looking at is a belief system that says that women belong in the home, having children — whatever children God decides to give to them. It's a very old-fashioned value system that a lot of people are clinging to desperately — and it gets all focused on a focus."

Radical feminists, such as John Stoltenberg, the author of *Refusing To Be A Man*, take that argument one step further. "It's an ancient myth that a woman's body is a kind of host for a male presence which is growing there, and if she chooses to end its life she's choosing to

eliminate a man's phallic identity. That association between foetal life and phallic life is a very deep one — men think if they get a woman pregnant they've proved their manliness."

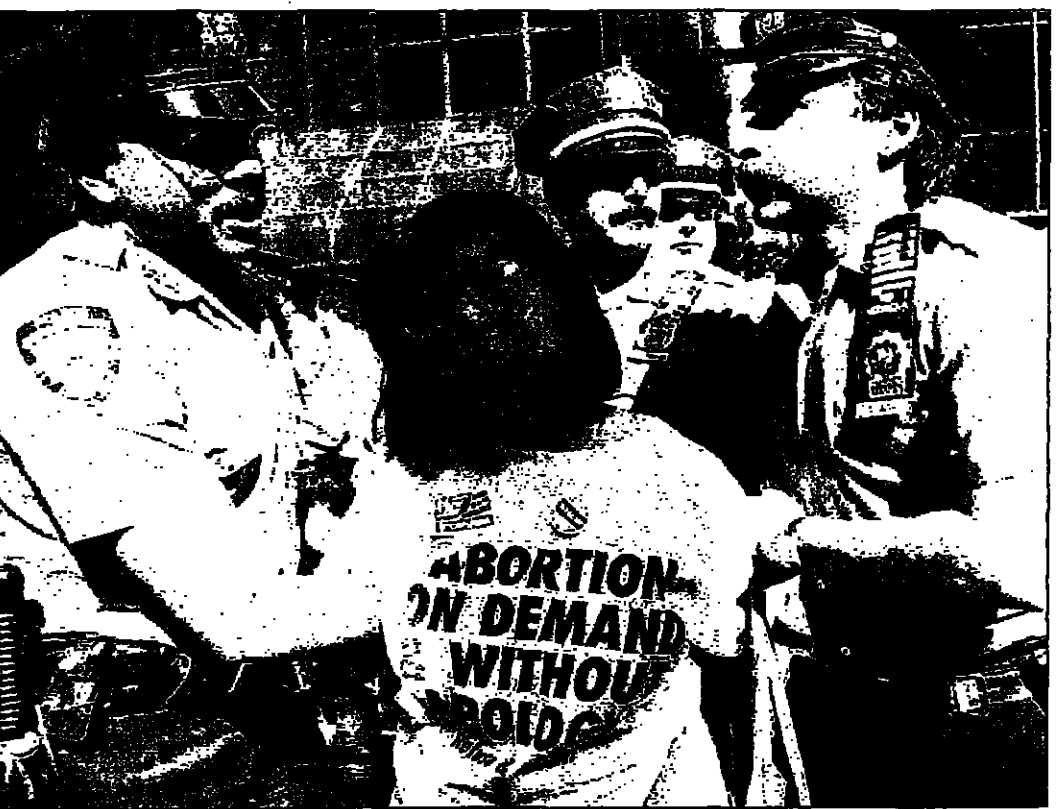
Recent polls show that although the country is evenly split over the issue there are slightly more women who want increased abortion restrictions than men (and women of 55 or older are more likely than most to be anti-abortion). The group most supportive of a woman's right to choose is, perhaps not surprisingly, young men — the 18-35 age group.

While many of the anti-abortion leaders are men, women are often the foot soldiers. Their presence is an uncomfortable thorn in the feminist side. One explanation for it has been put forward by Kristen Luker, a professor of law and sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. For her book *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*, she interviewed activists from both sides.

"For women who oppose abortion, motherhood is simply the most important thing women can do — what women are designed naturally to do. For them, to talk about choice just doesn't make sense."

"For women who favour the pro-choice position, motherhood is important, but it's not the centre of a woman's life. Most importantly, they're afraid that if women don't have the choice, motherhood can become oppressive — that is, you'll have citizens and mothers, workers and mothers, people who live in the real world and mothers. So it's most important for them that it can be voluntary."

Professor Luker believes that a key indicator as to which viewpoint a woman would subscribe to is education — and therefore, class.



Gripping issue: New York City police arrest a pro-choice demonstrator at an anti-abortion march

"Women who favour abortion tend to be very highly educated, to earn money on their own account, to have husbands who are white collar professionals and to have smaller families."

She says: "I was struck how often anti-abortion women would say 'I'm just a housewife' — these are women who have seen the social value of what they do dramatically decline in the past 20 years, and it makes them incredibly sensitive to what seems to be the stripping away of the social value of the embryo."

The fact that the Supreme Court, the judiciary, has decided the legality of abortion has also helped shape the debate. In Britain, a compromise is reached by the political parties in parliament.

"In the United States, we've borrowed a legal or courtroom model, where you hire a lawyer to speak for your side..." says Daniel Callahan, the director of the Hastings Center, a think-tank on medical ethics. "If you take that method into the public arena, you inevitably polarise issues. A court decision is black and white. The adversarial approach also neatly fits in with one aspect of American culture — the emphasis on the

individual, whose rights can be seen separately in the championing of both the woman and the foetus."

In Europe, the abortion issue is often included in a larger equation of responsibilities — the woman's responsibility to bear the next generation, balanced by the state's responsibility to help her, in the form of maternity leave, child support, child care. American pro-choice supporters often point to the absence of such child-centred policies, claiming that the state seems to care more about the unborn foetus than it does about the baby.

Harold Bloom, the author of *The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation*, wrote in *The New York Times*: "...The President and his pneumatic supporters are devoutly sincere. Unwitting gnostics, they follow the ancient heresy of believing that the Creation and the Fall were one and the same event. They therefore value the unborn over the born, the innocent and spiritual god-like foetus over the newborn babe."

The decision of Cardinal O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, to lead Saturday's march on an abortion clinic in Manhattan, is perhaps the most concrete illustration so far of the Catholic church's involvement. The Protestant funda-

mentalists groups — most notably, the Assembly of God — have also been at the forefront.

The tension between religious and secular world views has always been there in American society, embodied in the separation of church and state. On the abortion issue, the two clash head-on.

"Who has control — man or God?" asks Ken Woodward, *Newsweek's* religion correspondent. "We live in a secular society which is also a consumer society — I am what I consume. It also says you must be in control of your life. The religious perspective says put God in control. The other point of view says you're the only thing that counts. We have a very strong self-centred society."

Mr Callahan believes TV has played a damaging role in how Americans perceive the arguments. "Television gets the most extreme leaders on against each other. But when they ask a number of people, and they say 'Well, it's kind of complex...' they don't want to deal with it. Television does not like complexity — and neither does the United States."

SUZANNE LEVY

● The author will report on the issues underlying the debate on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* today at 10.30am

Just the right size

AND BRIEFLY

TO ALLOW youngsters to share in the fun of windsurfing there is now a board and rig specifically designed for six to ten year olds. The Mini-BIC, available nationwide from this month for £175, means that children no longer have to struggle with adult-sized equipment. Intended for children weighing between three and five-and-a-half stone, the bright yellow board weighs less than 17lb, measures a manageable two yards in length and features a see-through sail. The board comes with instructions and safety advice, but the manufacturers advise that the way to get the best out of it is to take lessons at one of the many Royal Yachting Association-approved windsurfing schools across Britain.

In the swim

AMERICAN women expect — and demand — a much greater choice of swimsuit styles and sizes than is generally available in Britain. "Mix and match" two pieces are commonplace, as are costumes that come in a choice of internal support systems.

The Land's End catalogue brings some of this choice to the UK. Its classic "tank" suit comes in a choice of regular, long and short torso lengths across its size range of six to 18 — and also offers a choice of either "shelf bra" — a soft inner lining with a band to prevent breasts from slipping — or a more supportive "soft cup bra". Prices range from £29.50 to £35 depending upon size — and all the other one-piece suits in the catalogue

come in a choice of torso lengths to prevent the great beach tug-of-war that is so often necessary to keep standard-sized swimsuits in place.

Closet issue

THE 11,000 members of the Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes have decided this month to campaign against the inadequate provision of public lavatory facilities for women and children. They are seeking to draw the attention of Michael Howard, the environment secretary, "to the totally inadequate provision of toilet facilities for women and small children in shops, shopping centres and places of entertainment". They note that provision is nearly always weighted in favour of men.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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UPDATE

Cries and statistics

THE cure rates of schizophrenics appear to depend more on definitions of the condition than on the treatment used. James Hegarty of the McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, examined 359 studies over the past 90 years in which specific criteria were used to define the disease and which detailed the results of treatment. Between 1900 and 1930, about 15 per cent of the patients got better. From 1930 to 1970, when a looser definition of the disease was prevalent, cure rates rose to 30 per cent, but have fallen again to 15 per cent since 1970, corresponding to the use of narrower definitions of the disease. "In the studies from 1930 to 1970, more patients got better because they had milder problems to begin with," he says.

Good timing

THE Tompion Gold Medal, awarded periodically by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers for outstanding achievement in the study of time, has been given to Leslie Morrison of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and Richard Stephenson of the University of Durham. Between them, they have made a comprehensive study of variations in the rotation of the Earth over the past 2,500 years, using ancient astronomical data to trace how the length of the day has varied over the millennia. The variations are caused by tides, the rise of the land after the last glaciation, and coupling between the core and mantle of the Earth.

Ultraviolet

TESTS in Australia have demonstrated that an increased flow of ultraviolet radiation will stunt the growth of crops. Soybeans, rice and peas were given repeated but low-level bursts of UV-B light typical of the increases that may be expected from decline of the ozone layer. "Every one of them had some level of reduction in performance, and some declines were as much as 70 per cent," said botanist Malcolm Whitecross of the Australian National University in Canberra. He said that findings had serious implications for plant productivity unless the ozone layer could be rapidly restored to normal.

Sectional interest

INDUCING labour in pregnant women who have gone past their delivery dates can reduce the rate of Caesarean operations but does not have an impact on infant mortality.

Canadian researchers have concluded. The study involved 3,407 women in Canada who had uncomplicated pregnancies lasting 41 weeks or longer, comparing induction of labour against close monitoring but no intervention, and showed that there was little difference in terms of infant mortality. The only apparent difference in outcome from the two approaches was a lower rate of Caesarean deliveries in women whose labour was induced, said a report by a research team led by Mary Hannah of Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

Wired for earth

HENLEY Management College are launching a new on-line environmental survey in which businesses can communicate directly with a computer about green issues. The advantage of carrying out such a survey electronically is that results are available much more rapidly and without consuming vast quantities of paper. Henley hopes that the system will produce a worthwhile exchange of views and create an international network of business managers and environmental specialists able to benefit from each other's experience. The new survey, free of charge to participants, is open to anybody able to communicate electronically with Henley through a computer fitted with a modem.

Purley greets

FOUR British schoolchildren who submitted the winning entry in a competition organised by the British National Space Centre have won a trip to the World Space Congress in the US in August. The four pupils of Purley sixth form college, Tim Jackson, Mel Barber, Alan Willmot and Andrew Marshall, will be Britain's "space ambassadors" at the congress, Edward Leigh, Minister for Space, said in presenting the award.

State of the heart

AN ARTIFICIAL heart implanted in a calf has kept the animal alive for the past two and a half months, researchers from the Pennsylvania State Medical Centre in Hershey have announced. The prototype heart, made of plastic and metal, is controlled from outside the calf's body. Coils mounted on the skin are fed with electrical power, creating a magnetic field which passes through the skin and incites a matching current on a coil inside the animal, which in turn powers the heart. Artificial hearts of this type, of which several designs have been produced by different groups, could be used to help thousands of heart disease patients.

In search of true Brits

How far did the Anglo-Saxons penetrate Britain? Iola Smith describes a new study

In the spring, 600 Welsh schoolchildren were asked to volunteer samples of hair or blood for a research project designed to unravel one of history's most enduring puzzles, the extent of the Anglo-Saxon conquest.

Children from Welsh-speaking north and west Wales, most of them having a Welsh maternal grandmother, were chosen. The researchers, at Oxford University's Institute of Molecular Medicine, are using the children as a source of Celtic-British DNA. A similar exercise is about to start in Germany. Decoded, the DNA samples may be able to distinguish between rival historical theories of what happened when Anglo-Saxons conquered the Celtic world.

"Two very different views are held by archaeologists," Bryan Sykes, the project director, says. "Some believe that a vast Dark Age Germanic invasion wiped out England's Romano-British population. Others reckon that though only a few boatloads landed, their Germanic culture was soon emulated by the indigenous population."

The due to distinguishing between these possibilities lies in the

form of DNA carried by mitochondria, the power units found inside cells. The job of the mitochondria is to control the breakdown of sugars in the cells into energy, and they have the property of being inherited through the female line. Dr Sykes says: "It is passed from generation to generation through the mother's egg, and so can be traced back to the origins of a family or tribe."

Mitochondrial DNA can also survive for thousands of years in well-preserved tissues, such as bone, making it possible to obtain samples of Dark Age mitochondrial DNA from burial sites dating back to the fifth century.

Analysing these samples is a long process, however, since decoding each one requires the equivalent of unravelling a 400-letter word. The result can then be compared with the mitochondrial DNA obtained from the Welsh and north German children.

"If the Dark Age samples resemble the German ones," Dr Sykes says, "it is likely that large numbers of Saxons landed, killing or driving out the native people. If this is the case, then the English are largely Germanic in origin. But if

'It may be shown that large numbers of invaders landed, killing or driving out the natives'



Direct line: Bryan Sykes is using DNA to look into what happened after the Anglo-Saxon invasion

the samples reveal a similarity with the Welsh, the second hypothesis will be proved: that only a small number of Saxons landed — not enough to affect the genealogical make-up of the indigenous British. This would suggest the English are the original true Brits."

The outcome should be known

later this year when the samples have been analysed. The next stage will be to establish how modern English people fit into the Saxon genealogical pattern. English children will be invited to provide mitochondrial DNA samples.

The Oxford team is also using its mitochondrial DNA research to

study the genetic makeup of Polynesians from the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.

Initial analysis has revealed that 90 per cent of the islanders have almost identical mitochondrial DNA, leading the Oxford scientists to conclude that only a few people first settled on the islands.

Agony to come after the Ecstasy?

Researchers have discovered from animal tests that a fashionable drug may have serious long-term effects

New research indicates that the cult drug Ecstasy may produce changes in the brain similar to those found in patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Experiments with animals have shown that the drug causes changes in the activity of an enzyme called tryptophan hydroxylase (TPH) found in the brain. A similar disruption of TPH has been found in post-mortem examinations of the brains of Alzheimer's victims.

Ecstasy, whose chemical name is methylene dioxymethylampheta-

mine, was developed in Germany before the first world war as an appetite suppressant. Rediscovered by American psychiatrists in the 1970s, it has become fashionable, creating a feeling of well-being in users but there has been controversy about its side-effects.

Experiments in which rats and mice were fed the drug have consis-

tently shown marked reductions in the activity of TPH in brain cells. The enzyme's function is to regulate the chemical serotonin, a vital component of the brain's switchgear. Dr Adam Winstock, of the Middlesex Hospital School of Medicine, says that any drug introduced into the brain can potentially cause damage, but that the greatest

danger with Ecstasy lies in its serotonin toxicity.

An American neurologist, Bill Burke, of St Louis Veterans' Hospital, has recently published evidence of a similar disruption to TPH function in post-mortem examinations of the brains of 17 Alzheimer's patients. In these cases, the effect is a breakdown of

serotonin and the degradation of some brain cells.

Dr Winstock points out that if an epidemic of Alzheimer's disease developed from widespread Ecstasy use, it would be hard to prove the drug caused it.

In Britain, about 12 deaths have been attributed to the use of Ecstasy. One study of 80 people in London reported 40 per cent feeling paranoia, depression and irritability after use.

DERMOT MARTIN

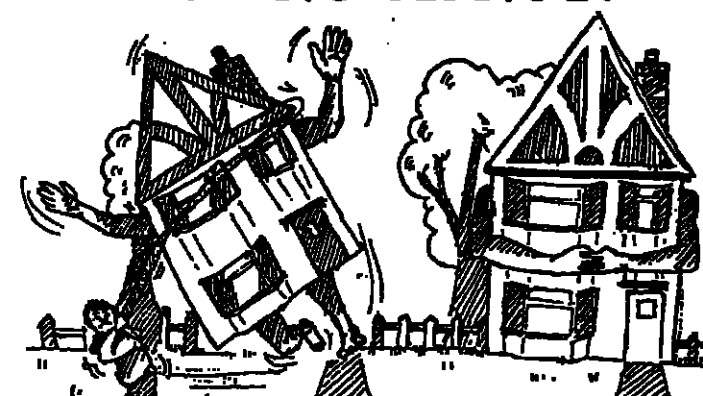
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Inflating the maintenance costs

Companies that cut down on their building maintenance today in order to reduce operating costs could be storing up a legacy of high costs for tomorrow, the property consultant Savills warns in a report on office occupational costs in central London.

To avoid this added expense, Savills emphasises the need to focus on the most efficient buildings. Nick Lahey-Bean, a director of Savills Commercial, says: "With some 34 million square feet on the market in London today and total take-up in 1991 standing at a mere 5.1 million square feet, the results of our 1992 survey should not be ignored by those investors, owner-occupiers and tenants who wish to achieve optimum efficiency from their buildings and support services."

The survey was last carried out in 1987 when the market was booming, and the maintenance costs of buildings were not considered an essential part of rental negotiations. Then the cost of about £5 a sq ft for maintenance was a small proportion of total costs when the rent was up to £60 a sq ft. Now £5 is a more significant sum as rents have fallen to £25-£30 a sq ft.

Overall, the occupational costs of offices have fallen since

Putting off essential repairs will only mean higher bills in the future,

Christopher Warman says

1987. The median cost then of £4.35 a sq ft has increased to £5.44, up by 25 per cent but 5 per cent less than the rate of inflation. But the average hides wide variation.

The survey shows that buildings up to 50,000 sq ft have seen an increase of 79 per cent during the five years, more than double the rate of inflation, which makes them more expensive to run than buildings of 50,000-100,000 sq ft and almost the same as buildings of 150,000 sq ft and over.

Costs for the largest category (more than 150,000 sq ft), which were double those of the smallest (0-50,000 sq ft), have fallen by 13 per cent during the period, and are now about the same. The report suggests that this change is the result of economies of scale, the bargaining power of property managers to make good deals with contractors, and greater efficiency from advances in building technology and design during the latter half of the 1980s.

Air-conditioned buildings cost twice as much to run as non air-conditioned buildings,

but buildings with air-conditioning added later are very inefficient compared with those buildings where it is installed at the start. This leaves a question mark over the role of older buildings.

In a separate survey, Savills Commercial found that 81 per cent of 43 facilities managers questioned said they were under pressure to reduce occupational costs, and would do this through tougher negotiations with suppliers. Nearly half (48 per cent) said they were cutting out non-essential maintenance, and 64 per cent believed that by cutting costs now they were building up cost for the future.

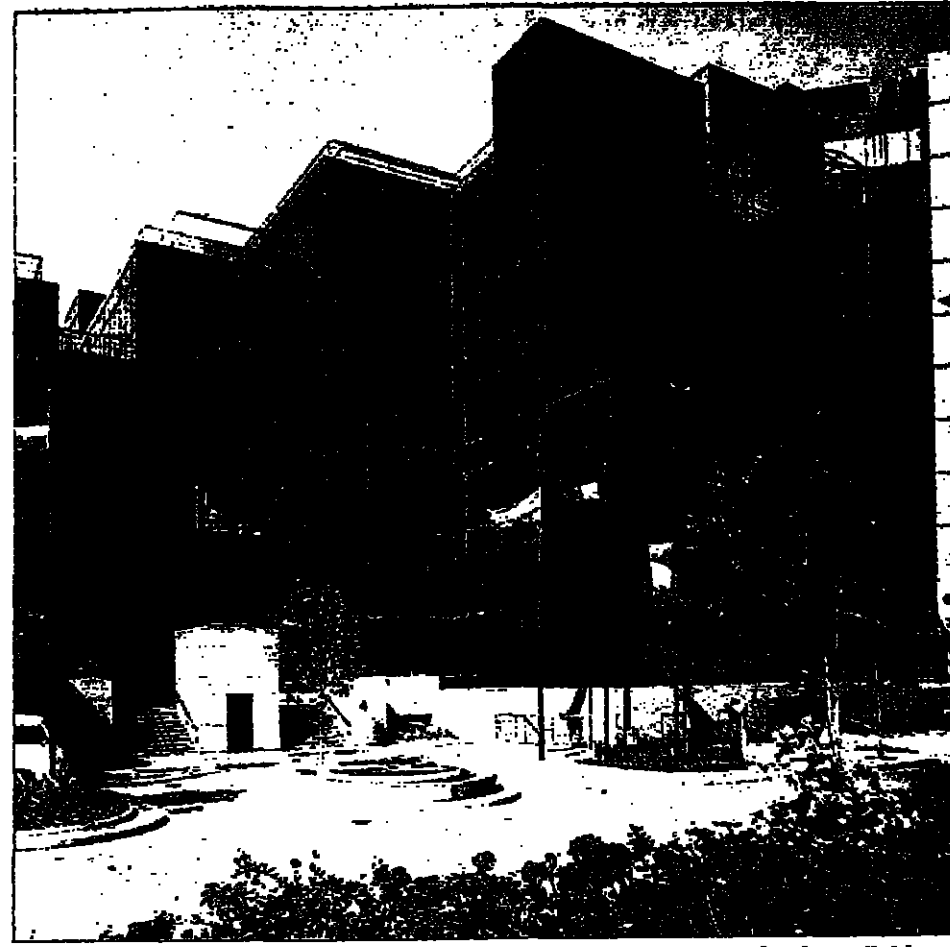
The role of property in British non-property companies comes under examination in a report by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, which asserts that they attach very little importance to their property. The results of the research indicate that more than 75 per cent of large organisations transfer property in cost-effective terms. Despite the high volume of property held by com-

mercial and industrial companies (£225 billion compared with £60 billion held by the institutions), only 0.2 per cent of employees were directly engaged in real estate work and only 10 per cent of companies employed a property director.

Peter Evans, research director, said that property appeared to be viewed as an incidental, with very few companies adopting a pro-active strategy, yet property often represented more than 50 per cent of all tangible assets of a non-property company. "It is vital that property be considered as a lubricant for the business, rather than a constraint," he added.

The report says that 5 per cent of the commercial floor-space held by the companies is under-used and surplus to requirements, a figure likely to increase as companies seek to reduce capacity. Few companies, however, have incentives or penalties to ensure an efficient use of space.

Debenham Tewson concludes that a key management objective should be to ensure that the company's property meets the changing needs of the core business. Cost efficiency should provide the parameters for both strategic and tactical decisions concerning operational property.



Cost efficient: 4 Harbour Exchange on the Isle of Dogs. 65 per cent let, is available at £12 a sq ft through Savills Commercial on behalf of Citibank NA. Harbour Exchange is one of the options being considered by the environment department

MARKET MOVES

Partners in success

PARTNERSHIP projects by the Welsh Development Agency and private sector developers will reach record levels in the next year and will, for the first time, create more industrial and commercial space than the agency's own publicly funded building programme.

Announcing the development programme for 1992-93 this week, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said that about 900,000 sq ft is planned through public-private partnerships, 100,000 sq ft more than in 1991-92.

Bovis coup

BOVIS GmbH, the wholly owned German subsidiary of the P&O company Bovis International, in a joint venture with Lahmeyer International, has won a \$360 million project management contract for the construction of the Commerzbank Tower in Frankfurt's financial district.

The 54-storey tower, designed by Sir Norman Foster, will be the headquarters of one of Germany's leading banks, for completion in late 1996. This is the company's biggest project yet in Germany.

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\$9 per hour

Take the following and blend carefully:

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- W Seasoned WP skills
- W Sizeable pinch of professionalism
- W Good measure of fun & initiative

Fold in a friendly, positive approach, add a dash of zest and you'll find it's a proven recipe for success.

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO
MAIN BOARD DIRECTOR

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Competitive Salary + Benefits

Laura Ashley is an international market leader in quality clothing and home furnishings. Its Global headquarters, now based in Fulham, requires a highly proficient Personal Assistant with the experience and enthusiasm to share in the Company's future success.

Working as part of a small team, providing a full Personal Assistant service to the Human Resources Main Board Director with support to the Chief Executive when required, this is a very much a key position. Preparing letters/reports, setting up and maintaining office systems, diary management, organisation of meeting/presentations and arranging international travel itineraries as well as general administration will be the main pillars of your role.

With previous experience of working at executive secretarial level, you are a highly motivated, flexible individual, used to working under pressure with excellent secretarial and communication skills and possessing a highly organised and methodical approach to work.

Familiarity with Wordperfect, Word for Windows and Lotus 1-2-3 would be a distinct advantage.

The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package including BUPA membership, a contributory pension scheme and attractive staff discount.

Please apply in writing with full CV and current salary level, quoting a telephone contact number to: Zannah Ratcliff, Human Resources Manager, Laura Ashley Limited, 27 Bagley's Lane, Fulham, London SW6 2AR

Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer.



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CJA

3 London Wall Buildings,
London Wall, London EC2M 5PU
Tel: 071 586 3586 or 071 586 3576
Telex No. 987374 Fax No. 071 256 6501

CJRA PERSONNEL SECRETARY

Law Firm, WC1

£15,500-£17,500

This dynamic and fast growing law firm now has a new position in the Personnel Department for an experienced secretary who should be a good team player. A background in personnel will be useful but not essential. You should enjoy working in a pressurised environment with constantly changing priorities. Working closely with the personnel team you will need to be a competent administrator, with excellent typing, audio and Wordperfect skills.

An innovative and diplomatic approach is important as is a sense of humour. If you can show a genuine commitment and have initiative, then the prospects with our clients are hard to beat.

Apart from a highly competitive salary, benefits include LV's, season ticket loan, 4 weeks holiday, free life insurance and PPP after a qualifying period. Applications in strict confidence, marked for the attention of the Security Manager: CJRA, under reference PS24334/TT will be forwarded to our client.

LINCHPIN

£216,000

The Financial Controller of this well-known plc wishes to appoint a bright, motivated secretary with fast accurate skills and an eye for detail. Acting as the link between your boss and the other members of the team, you will play a key role within the department - coordinating diaries, arranging travel and dealing with messages and correspondence in their absence. You will also need well developed social skills in order to represent the company to high profile visitors. Financial experience preferred.

Age 23-28, skills: 80/55, Wordperfect 5.1

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071-831 1220

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Co-ordinator

WC2 £216,000

Required for mixed retail, office and residential development in Covent Garden, London WC2. An opportunity to make a mark on one of Central London's most exciting new retail experiences.

A challenging position for a creative, self motivated and flexible person, ideally with experience in retail promotion.

A secretarial background is essential as you will carry out your own administrative work. Please apply in writing with CV to:

Ms. P. Mullan, Ashley Associates
77 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JH

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STARTING SALARY UP TO £13,875 P.A. (UNDER REVIEW)
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The Department has a vacancy for a well qualified Personal Secretary. The post is interesting and varied and requires someone with a responsible and cheerful personality, to take their place in a busy office team.

Salary scale £11983 to £15,082 p.a. (under review) including Inner London Weighting with extra salary points for good performance. Generous holidays.

Life Assurance, Sick Pay Schemes and interest-free season ticket loan. The post is permanent and pensionable.

Candidates must have 35/100 typing and shorthand with a knowledge of word processing and should have 5 GCSEs to 'O' level standard English Language (or equivalent) and some recent secretarial experience.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from:-

The Personnel Office

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 071 219 5544 (24 hour answer phone service)

Quoting Ref: 2E/174

Closing date for receipt of application 30/6/92

Applications from Registered Disabled candidates will be welcomed. The House of Commons Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

PA to the Director
Salary negotiable £15-£17K

This month the Polytechnic of West London becomes Thames Valley University London. We require a first-class PA to provide full secretarial and administrative support to the Director during a period of rapid and exciting change.

Your duties will include complex diary management; liaison with internal and external bodies, meeting preparation and prompt, accurate handling of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

You will need excellent audio and WP skills (preferably Word Perfect), experience of other computer packages, the ability to handle confidential matters with absolute discretion and a genuine commitment to our status-free, equal opportunities culture. You must be flexible, energetic with a sense of humour and have strong organisation and communication skills. Previous office management/administrative experience will be an advantage.

Please apply for further information, quoting ref: CS001, to the Personnel Office. Tel: 081 566 2608 (24 hr answerphone).

Closing date: 26 June 1992
Interviews will be held on 3 July 1992

St. Mary's Road, Ealing, London W5 8RF DR55

* Subject to Privy Council approval. The University is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities and social justice.

Secretary/Administrator

Human Resources

London, West End

As part of one of the world's leading firms of international property consultants, the Human Resources team here at our prestigious Hanover Square offices provides a comprehensive personnel service for over 750 London-based staff.

Your role will be to provide full secretarial and administrative support to the team. It's a varied and challenging position which will involve you in a number of recruitment activities including liaising with agencies, applicants and departments, setting up interviews, and testing candidates. You will also use our PERCOM system - inputting information and updating the database.

Needless to say we're looking for a rather special person. In addition to excellent secretarial skills including typing speeds of at least 55wpm, you'll need a mature, enthusiastic and flexible approach. The ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels of seniority is also essential.

In return we offer a highly competitive salary and a range of benefits including 23 days' annual holiday, a generous travel allowance and discretionary bonus.

To apply send your CV with a covering letter to Victoria Masterman, Jones Lang Wootton, 22 Hanover Square, London W1A 2BN.



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Exciting Secretarial Opportunities
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PACKAGE: £11,000 plus benefits

WC2

Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting are both members of the world's leading accountancy and management consultancy organisation. They employ over 3000 staff in their London Office.

We are currently seeking college leavers for our Secretarial Development Programme in London.

You will be given early responsibility from the outset, involving telephone work, booking travel and hotels, arranging meetings and having client contact as well as undertaking secretarial duties using the latest technology.

In return we will ensure you receive all the training required to carry out your responsibilities to the highest standard. This will include a full induction course, systems training, electronic mail, and further courses at regular intervals to build and enhance your skills. On completion of your training there are excellent career opportunities open to you in many different areas.

You should be educated to GCSE 'O' level standard and have completed a one year secretarial course. We are looking for confident and assertive individuals who will thrive in this dynamic environment.

If you are looking for a career opportunity and relish the idea of working within a quality professional services environment, please send a detailed curriculum vitae to: JO SHANNON, Senior Recruiting Officer, Arthur Andersen, 1 Surrey Street, LONDON WC2R 2PS.

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HelpAge International is a network of organisations working for elderly people worldwide, of which Help the Aged (UK) is a member.

We seek a Committee Secretary/Administrator to provide comprehensive services to ensure the success of project committees, council and executive meetings in support of overseas operations. You will arrange travel and accommodation, collate and circulate papers, provide minutes, follow up correspondence and generally assist the Chief Executive.

You should have extensive secretarial/admin experience and excellent WP and shorthand skills. Educated to A-level standard, you must have experience in committee work and ability to speak French or Spanish would be an advantage. Salary will be £15,347pa.

Please write enclosing your cv. to Mrs Vivien Kasoulis, Personnel Services Manager, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Closing date for applications: 3rd July. Non-smoking offices. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Committee
Secretary/
Administrator

£15,347pa.



HelpAge

Legal Opportunity
Partner's Secretary

C. £19,000 + EXCELLENT BENEFITS

Theodore Goddard is a Top 20 City law firm based in modern offices near the Barbican.

We now require an experienced legal secretary for an energetic, demanding partner who specialises in Competition Law. He will delegate as many administrative tasks as you can handle.

With excellent WP/audio skills, ideally on Wang VS, candidates must be mature, organised, flexible and probably educated to at least A level standard. Knowledge of German would be an advantage. A non-smoker is essential.

Please send your application to Liz M. Toner (Miss), Personnel Manager, Theodore Goddard, 150 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4EL.

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LONDON FIRM JOHN HENNESSY

Administrator
to £21,000

An international information systems company in the City needs an experienced administrator. Combining the roles of systems and office manager for the personnel department, you will also be responsible for administering the company benefits. The ability to keep several balls in the air at once, coupled with computer literacy, including a personnel database, and supervisory experience is essential. Not a job for the faint hearted, but an opportunity to succeed in a professional company which believes in high standards and a positive approach. Age: 30+. Please telephone Melanie Hill on 071-377 9919 or fax your CV to her on 071-377 6455.

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Successful director of leading European Marketing/Promotions company, responsible for highly visible campaigns for well known brand names, needs a young, enthusiastic secretary to be part of the team.

The role is varied and involved with the emphasis on co-ordination. You will run the company's progressive training programme, organise client presentations and entertainment (you will be expected to join in) and look after the team's work schedules - all this, in addition, to full secretarial support.

Your skills must be good - 90 shorthand and fast typing (70wpm). They are a lively crowd and need a fast worker with a fun personality to keep up with them.

Please call Marianne Hope on 071 734 8484 regarding the above or for an informal chat about your career plans.

£13,000 plus 5 weeks holiday.

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RECRUITMENT
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£15,500

Do you enjoy being relied on? Are you motivated by knowing everything that's going on and staying one step ahead of your boss? If so, you are exactly what our client, a forward-thinking property company, needs. Working for two dynamic surveyors the job is fun and involved, no two days are ever the same and you will soon become an integral part of the team. Stunning Mayfair offices and exceptional benefits. 60 wpm audio typing essential. Age 22-28. Please call Samantha Brander on 071-434 4512.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSEXPERIENCED PA/SECRETARY
TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Interesting variety of work and must be able to work on own initiative. Excellent references are essential.

Salary depending on age and experience. Please send CV and full details in the first instance for the attention of The Managing Director, ROMULUS CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, Burlington House, 184 New Kings Road, London, SW6 4SW

YOUNG SECRETARY
20K PACKAGE

Read on if you have reasonable shorthand, good typing and wish to maximise your earnings. Our client, a major Investment Bank in EC2 is currently expanding its young secretaries. Therefore two dynamic (and very pleasant) Directors require a young secretary to organise their day and undertake the normal secretarial duties. Previous financial experience would be an advantage but the most important attributes are enthusiasm and the willingness to work hard.

Call 071 283 0799

TEMPTING!

We are handling some of the most interesting and well paid temp assignments in town - particularly for Young Secretaries/P.A.s. You will be a word processing wizard (preferably Microsoft Word, Word for Windows or Wordperfect 5.1), with a bright lively mind and excellent presentation. Shorthand would be the icing on the cake. We pay up to £28.50ph and we're very nice people to do business with! Can you resist the temptation to call?

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Karen Claydon! We are delighted to hear how much you are enjoying the new job we found for you on 25th May. After your long search for the RIGHT position (and agency) it must be refreshing to be approached whilst using your excellent secretarial skills and earning such a good salary. We would very much like to hear from other secretaries with similar qualities: bags of initiative, flexibility and the willingness to take on as much responsibility as possible. So if that's you - Call us now for your new job (and keep in touch Karen).

071 283 0799

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Chelsea Estate Agents

Very busy firm of Estate Agents requires junior secretary to help with everything and anything. You should be 18 plus and have lots of energy and enthusiasm, be well spoken, and have some WP/audio experience. Immediate start. Little Pic (London Residential Department) 071 225 3866 (Ref: ATS)

ESDAY JUNE 17 1992

MARKET MOVERS
Partners
success

PARTNERSHIP project the Welsh property developers will reach a level in the next year will, for the first time, be more industrial and commercial space than the own public funded programme.

Announcing the first of this week's Welsh secretaries, about 100,000 sq ft planned through private partnerships in more than 100.

Bovis coup

BOVIS GmbH, the owned German company, the 1991 company International, in a joint venture with Lohmeyer International, has won a million pound contract for the construction of the Frankfurt district.

The 150,000 sq ft designed by Sir Norman will be the headquarters of German banks, for completion 1996. This is the largest project in Germany.

City Stars

£19,000 + MS + o/h

Sales and marketing of the Estate of a major international bank with drive, enthusiasm and a proven track record. You will be able to use your own initiative in sales presentations and secure new commissions. You need a good knowledge of the City and its surroundings. Age 23-28.

Crone Corkill

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Team Secretary

£16,000 + BBs

Land Manager of 100+ million, professional secretary who will be responsible for a number of tasks, including travel arrangements, diary management, and general office duties. You will be able to use your own initiative in sales presentations and secure new commissions. You need a good knowledge of the City and its surroundings. Age 23-28.

JOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LOOKING FOR MORE?

£100-£20,000 + Neg

We are looking for a motivated, energetic, and ambitious person to join our team. You will be responsible for a number of tasks, including travel arrangements, diary management, and general office duties. You will be able to use your own initiative in sales presentations and secure new commissions. You need a good knowledge of the City and its surroundings. Age 23-28.

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Laboratory Outline

2. 1991) to grant him his application for judicial review of the decision by Lantoro to exercise the immigration statute under which

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that at the relevant time Lautro's rules and procedure

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that at the relevant time Lautro's rules and procedure

That position had been recommended in February 1992 by *Mauro Rules 7.28 and 7.3(1)*

In any event, Lauro were not required by law to afford to Winchester the opportunity to make representations as to why an intervention notice should not be served before deciding whether or not to serve such a notice.

There had been no unfairness used to the member which could have invalidated the notice.

071-481 9313

the subsequent convictions had to be quashed.

MR JUSTICE FRENCH said that if the clerk had given the parties an explanation that would have rendered her conduct impeccable.

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on behalf of major cultural support is generated across sectors either by individuals or by state of affairs. The major indications of this are located in the literature is by committee reflection of the response to the nature of this work. It is not uncommon to discover that at the highest level of the organization, although consideration is given to individuals without regard to the space provided they have no authority, therapy and an individual telephone in any way.

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (79814) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (40222543)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins (r) (5033746) 9.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares beef carpaccio, followed by catfish on ratatouille and concluding with hazelnut parfait with candied violets (77659)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (051307) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (4273430) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidup. Animation narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (6054494) 10.35 Beautywise. Advice on looking good from Liz Earle and Karen Krizanovich (r) (4324494)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (9875562) 11.05 Travel Show. What southern Florida has to offer the tourist (r) (5643235) 11.35 Major Dad. American family comedy (r) (4694388)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7929456) 12.05 Summer Scene. Magazine series presented live from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale. Today's guests include Andrew Morton, author of the controversial book *Diana: the True Story*, and Mitzi Wilson, editor of the BBC Good Food Magazine (8459746) 12.55 Regional News and weather (6085992)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Cee-fax) Weather (25920) 1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (5962543)
1.50 Royal Ascot. On the second day of the festival meeting Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05, 3.45 and, on BBC2, 4.20 races (s) (5924161)
3.50 Henry's Cat. Cartoon series narrated by Bob Godfrey (r) (4795017) 4.00 Wild Bunch. Janice Aquah and Mark Evans investigate animals' ability to learn. Last in the series (s) (8629825) 4.15 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Animation (r) (2773104) 4.35 The Movie Game. Film and video quiz presented by Jonathan Morris. (Cee-fax) (s) (5962543)
5.00 Newsround (6732727) 5.10 Clownding Around. Episode four of the eight-part children's drama from Australia. (Cee-fax) (s) (9362630)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (724949) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) Weather (582)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (562). Northern Ireland: Neighbours. 7.00 European Football Championship. Live coverage of England's final group match, against the host nation Sweden in Stockholm, introduced by Desmond Lynam with Jimmy Hill and Terry Venables. Plus highlights of the game in Malmö between Denmark and France. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies (411185)
9.30 Main News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (51611)



Youth abused: a victim is interviewed by police (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Inside Story: Evidence of Abuse.
CHOICE: In what is claimed as a television first, the cameras follow a child abuse case from the initial accusations to the verdict of the court. An eight-year-old girl claims that her father sexually abused her and her brother. The case is handled by a specialist unit on Humberstone in which police officers work in tandem with social workers. The message of Paul Bennett's impressive fly-on-the-wall documentary is the difficulty of obtaining evidence and making it stick. There are generally no witnesses to abuse, medical testimony can be disputed and courts are reluctant to accept the word of the child without corroboration. As a result any benefit of the doubt tends to go to the alleged abuser. The film offers a step-by-step guide to the pitfalls which lie in wait for even the most thorough and sensitive police investigation. (Cee-fax) (s) (712524)
10.50 Film: Class (1983) starring Ron Lowe, Andrew McCarthy and Jacqueline Bisset. Reminiscent of a shy young college student who unwittingly has an affair with his room-mate's mother. Directed by Lewis John Carlo. (Cee-fax) (33066814). Northern Ireland: The Lady Elizabeth 11.20 Film: Major League
12.25am Royal Ascot. Highlights from the second day of the festival's racing (s) (5136789). Northern Ireland: 12.55-1.15 Royal Ascot
12.45 Weather (1215963)

SATellite

- SKY ONE
Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kar Show (1563933) 8.00 Miss Pepperoni (128582) 8.55 Lamb Chop: Play-A-Long (5953569) 9.30 The Premier Game (10755) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (1282) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (75727) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (54556) 12.00 St. Elsewhere (1038) 1.00pm 5 Stars (58272) 1.30 Glee: Finding your parents and wishing you hadn't. (16475) 2.30 Another World (748746) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (72573) 3.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (4036272) 5.00 Film: The Untouchables (4036272) 5.30 Different Strokes (6982) 6.00 Live at First Sight (6123) 6.30 E Street (7475) 7.00 AF (2591) 7.30 Comedy Central (3659) 8.00 Bartender: Galactica (33253) 8.30 Chances (5307) 10.00 Sports (9033) 10.30 Doctor Doctor (7455) 11.00 Tattler (7594) 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
News on the hour. 6.00am News (226814) 8.30 Morning News (28307) 10.00 Dayline (10524) 10.30 Fashion TV (35712) 11.30 Japan Business Today (446291) 11.45 International Business Report (11205) 12.00 Good Morning America (13388) 12.30pm Good Morning America (13388) 1.00pm Live at Five (20017) 1.30pm Newsline (72559) 1.50pm Newsline (72559) 2.00pm Newsline (72559) 2.30pm Newsline (72559) 3.00pm Newsline (72559) 3.30pm Newsline (72559) 4.00pm Newsline (72559) 4.30pm Newsline (72559) 5.00pm Newsline (72559) 5.30pm Newsline (72559) 6.00pm Newsline (72559) 6.30pm Newsline (72559) 7.00pm Newsline (72559) 7.30pm Newsline (72559) 8.00pm Newsline (72559) 8.30pm Newsline (72559) 9.00pm Newsline (72559) 9.30pm Newsline (72559) 10.00pm Newsline (72559) 10.30pm Newsline (72559) 11.00pm Newsline (72559) 11.30pm Newsline (72559) 12.00pm Newsline (72559) 12.30am Newsline (72559)

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
6.00am Sky Movies Plus Showcase (9474659) 10.00 My Part is my Own: Whoopi

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Roman Architecture and Town Planning (9171901). Ends at 7.10
8.00 BBC Breakfast News (1114746)
8.15 Westminster (6059882)
9.00 The History Man. Bryan McNeely investigates the invasion of the Essex coast (r) (1512630)
9.05 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather (56536758) followed by You and Me (r) (86881730) 2.15 The Sky is Night. Peter Moore is joined by the Astronomer Royal, Professor Arvid Wolfendale, to discuss the latest data received from the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite (r) (42731794) 2.35 Country File. Rural issues examined by John Craven (r) (7409185)
3.00 News and weather (9947746) followed by Westminster Live, introduced by Vivian White (7622017) 3.40 News, regional news and weather (4797475)
3.50 Royal Ascot continued from BBC1. Live coverage of the Royal Hunt Cup (4.20). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lintley and John Hanner (s) (1357388)
4.35 Seabird City. An RSPB film about the gulls who have forsaken the crowded coastal shores for the city life (r) (4326272)
5.00 Horizon: Genes R Us. A documentary look at nine months in the lives of a group of young scientists at Manchester University (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (4253)
6.00 Film: Jubal (1956) starring Glenn Ford, Valerie French and Ernest Borgnine. Superior western about a drifter who is given a job by a friendly rancher whose wife takes a shine to the newcomer starting a chain reaction of jealousy, hate and violence. Directed by Delmer Daves (5341123)
7.40 Birthrights. Bill Gold. The third of six films on culture and identity. Westerns a variety of black perspectives. Rebel MC, Shiraj Paul and Shani Ahmed, founder of the Joe Bloggs jeans company, explore black attitudes to wealth and ask whether black businesses benefit their own communities. (Cee-fax) (105611)



Infiltration: examining the machinations of Gladio (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Timewatch: Gladio.
CHOICE: The second of three documentaries about far right infiltration of Western intelligence is only marginally more comprehensible than the first. There is a good story here but it needs to be told more coherently. Part of the trouble is the elusiveness of the subject. Gladio was a nebulous organisation which defies neat definition and television needs clear, simple ideas. But the film is hopeless on chronology and needs a much fuller commentary. The focus is on the series of bombings in Italy, culminating in the explosion at Bologna railway station which left 86 dead. Gladio's object was to throw the blame on the extremist left, so as to increase popular demands for a more authoritarian government. That much is clear but viewers are advised to equip themselves with a cool head and a rewind button. (Cee-fax) (692814)
9.00 MPA's H. More black humour from the front line Korean war medic. When BJ announces that he will play a practical joke on each of the rest of the team by dawn the next day Hawkeye becomes a nervous wreck waiting for BJ to pounce (r) (158524)
9.25 The Green Man. Episode two of Malcolm Bradbury's three-part adaptation of Kingsley Amis's ghost story starring Alfin Fenn as an Oxford hosteler and restaurateur with money, drink and, latterly, a 17th-century ghost problem (r). (Cee-fax) (550185)
10.15 Touching Earth. Archaeologist Colin Renfrew explains the way he has traced the Neolithic civilisation (s) (560727)
10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman (221982)
11.15 The Late Show. Tonight's edition of the arts and media magazine is devoted to rock star Bruce Springsteen (942727)
11.55 Weather (922663)
12.00 Open University: Sejanus Murgrave at the Court (76944). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1633123)
9.25 Cross Words. Crossword quiz game presented by Tom O'Connor (6292630) 9.55 Thames News (1292727)
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about a teenage girl with an alien father and a human mother (r) (609338)
10.30 This Morning. Magazine series presented by the Jolly Finningar and Richard Herring. Today's edition includes advice on making the most of the National Health Service, family law and the demystification of modern technology. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 (48185272)
12.10 Allsorts. Children's entertainment (r) (s) (9666433)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler. (Oracle) (6315475) 1.10 Thames News (62843814)
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (18915659) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in a small Australian outback town (6897814)
2.20 Graham Kerr. The chef took up Bangkok steamed trout (97967746) 2.50 Take the High Road. Drama series set in the Highlands (r) (17104)
3.15 ITN News headlines (9957123) 3.20 Thames News headlines (9954035) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital (3841369)
3.55 Garfield and Friends. Animation (9107291) 4.20 Follow Your Nose. Young people test their physical and mental skills at the Lightwater Valley Theme Park, north Yorkshire (4282765) 4.50 Scooby Doo. Animation (4265185)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holby (2546366)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (964630) 5.55 Thames Hols (r) (287369)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (678)
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (630)



Hospital drama: student doctor Joanne Waller (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Jimmy's. The first of a new series of real-life dramas from St James's University hospital in Leeds (s) (5098)
7.30 Coronation Street. The distressed Emily Bishop goes missing. (Oracle) (814)
8.00 Survival Special: Giant Otter. A documentary about the largest, loudest and rarest of the world's otters, found only in remote South American jungles (r). (Oracle) (8543)
9.00 Film: All the Right Moves (1983) starring Tom Cruise as a high school football player who, with his girlfriend (Lee Thompson), dreams of leaving the depressed confines of the Pennsylvania steel town where they live. His only hope depends on him winning a football scholarship, her fate lies in her musical talents. Directed by Michael Chapman. Continues after the news (8307)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Nicholas Owen. (Oracle) Weather (50494) 10.30 Thames News (590524)
10.40 Film: All the Right Moves continued (590524)
11.20 European Football Championship. Highlights of tonight's games between Sweden and England in Stockholm and France and Denmark in Malmö (625356)
12.30am Film: The True Story of Jesse James (1956) starring Robert Wagner and Jeffrey Hunter. Director Nicholas Ray injects vitality into the unimpressive remake of the western legend. With good supporting acting from Agnes Moorehead as the brothers' mother and Hope Lange as Jesse's wife (344215)
2.15 Hollywood Report. Title-battle from Tinseltown (53673)
2.45 America's Top Ten (s) (5294)
3.15 Video fashion. The latest from French designers (2408654)
3.45 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz competition (2124505)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville (r) (s) (33041505)
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newscasts (58418012)
5.00 Three's Company. American comedy series (97166)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nielson (71499). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (1631765)
9.25 Schools (84858272)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (57307)
12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the world's financial centres (64185)
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is singer Randy Travis (r) (52340)
2.00 Film: The Big Lift (1950, b/w) starring Montgomery Clift and Paul Douglas. Factual drama about the Berlin air lift, organised to defeat the Soviet blockade of the city. Directed by George Seaton (31943833)
4.10 Joe Brown at Clapham (b/w). The singer tells the story of his time on Stephenson's Rocket to today's high-speed trains using old prints and rare archive film (r) (276754)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving quiz with out general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (727)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are widowed parents who started to date new partners before their families felt they had finished mourning their spouse (5926524)
5.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (279611)
6.00 Kate and Allie. Comedy series starring Susan St James and Jane Curtin as Greenwich Village divorcees. (Teletext) (920)
6.30 The Best of the World. Featuring Flavor Flav, lead singer of Public Enemy, and boxer Chris Eubank (s) (272)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (322982)
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Conservative party politician (52324)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2388)
8.30 Check Out '92. Carole Peters investigates whether our occupational pensions are safe (4123)
9.00 Dispatches. On the 20th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, new evidence about the events that led to the scandal (575494)
9.45 Short and Curly: Out of Town, by Neil Clarke. David Morrissey stars as a young man on a country road who walks into a nightmare (r) (940727)
10.00 The Golden Girls. More comedy from the four Miami matrons (r). (Teletext) (58096)



Meaty adventures: Bob Mortimer and Vic Reeves (10.30pm)

- 10.30 Bunch of Five: The Weekenders.
CHOICE: The news that Mr. Reeves and Bob Mortimer lead tonight's comedy pilot is a good indication of what to expect and admirers of their lunatic, surreal humour will not be disappointed. You can hardly call it a sitcom, despite a Goon Show plot about two chums in search of the perfect sausage pursued by a trio of aliens who want the meat for themselves. The narrative flow is staccato, to say the least, and the individual gags are the thing. They come so fast that you often need a re-wind to catch them and if many have no reason to be there, the very darkness of the enterprise is part of its appeal. Reeves is someone who either drives you to hysterics or makes you switch off. But if you like the notion of an Alan Ladd Memorial Heel Bar, this is the show for you (34458)
11.00 4-Play: 'Tch. Alexei Sayle stars as a hitchhiker stranded on a roundabout for a year (r) (425140)
12.05am Kazimir Malevich: Breaking Free of the Earth. Barrie Gavin with the story of the Russian artist who died in 1935 while in official disfavour (s) (424429)
1.05 The Foot Boy. A surreal short set in the sleeping compartment of a train where a foot without a body finds with a girl, starting Marysia de Pourbaix and Michel Roman (8562418). Ends at 1.20

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VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA
As London except 2.20pm-2.50pm Gardening Time (97967746) 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (740811)
BORDER
As London except 2.15pm-3.15 The Silk Road (783920) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2546366) 6.00 Lookaround Wednesday (1374760) 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters (690) 7.25 The Young Riders (2636418) 1.30 Donatello (5020760) 2.20 Cinema Attractions (1374760) 2.50 The Truth About Women (5218302) 3.20 Film: The Hurled Man (636215) 4.35 About Britain (42134692) 5.30-5.30 Johnnie (6252925)
HTV WEST
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RADIO 3

- 6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Handel (Water Music), excerpts: Royal Concerto Orchestra under Edward van Beinum, Walton: Spinnaker Poem and Fugue: Royal Liverpool PO under Charles Groves)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Marcello (Concerto in G for two Cellos: Hilary Hagger and Louise Pellerin, oboe; Camerata Inter: Beethoven Concerto in E flat, Op 81; Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 2 in B minor; City of Birmingham SO under Simon Rattle, with Cedric Ousset, piano)
8.30 News
8.35 Promenade of the Week: Boccherini (Diabari: Maria; Sonatina No 4 in A for 2 harpsichord: William Christie and Christophe Rousset)
9.35 Midweek Choral, with Susan Parry, featuring requests from week's Radio 3 Goes to Town in Sheffield
11.50 Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at the 1991 Proms perform Mozart: Symphony No 29 in A, K201; Western: Pines (Serenade for strings) (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Concert Hall: Emanuel Segre, guitar, performs Weiss (Clacora for lute); Giuliani (La Rossiana, Op 119) Petraschi (Nun); Hertz: Tientos da Camerata; Albéniz (Cordoba, Bantos de Espana No 4)
2.00 Record Review (r)
3.10 The Year's Strangest plays and conducts his own music: Piano-Rag Music Serenade in A for piano; Duo Concertant for violin and piano; Samuel Durkin; Symphonies of Wind Instruments, 1947 version: North West German Radio Symphony Orchestra
4.00 Choral Evening Song live from Hereford Cathedral
5.00 A Georgian Feast
CHOICE: The songs Simon Broughton hears at a party to celebrate a christening in Tbilisi come from the amateur throats of family and friends.
They are so beautifully sung, however, that an entire, enjoyable evening could be devoted to them in, say, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tonight, we must be content with just 30 minutes' worth of this fine polyphony. The Hurled Man (636215) 4.35 About Britain (42134692) 5.30-5.30 Johnnie (6252925)
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